

Japan to send envoy to lobby Iran

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese government will dispatch a special envoy to Iran Saturday to persuade Tehran to abandon its opposition to the ongoing Middle East peace process, Japanese foreign ministry officials said. The officials said Friday that Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda would hold talks in Tehran during the weekend with Iranian Ministry officials including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. They said Mr. Fukuda would express Japan's regret at Iran's opposition to the recent agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Japanese deputy minister is also to call on his counterparts there to support the peace move in the region, they said. In May, Japan, ignoring U.S. advice, resumed aid to Iran by providing a \$3.6 billion yen (\$371 million) loan to finance a hydroelectric project after a two-decade suspension. News reports said Friday the talks were unlikely to lead to Iran's immediate reconsideration of the issue.

Jordan Times

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Jordan, U.S. stage joint manoeuvres

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordanian and U.S. troops are conducting joint military manoeuvres, the first combined ground, sea and air exercises in several years, a Jordanian official said Friday. The joint air manoeuvres underway in southern Jordan and dubbed "Eager Tiger II" involve 16 F-15 and F-16 warplanes, he said. The ground exercises, codenamed "Eager Light," are also taking place in the south and involve infantry training. The naval manoeuvres, codenamed "Infinite Shadow," are in the Gulf of Aqaba where the U.S. destroyer Spruance is expected to sail next week, the official added. The exercises, which began last month and are to be completed by the end of September, come after a warming of ties which were strained during the Gulf crisis. The United States this week unfroze credits for Jordan worth \$30 million in aid that was suspended after the Gulf war. (see page 10).

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Russian envoy to visit Israel, Jordan, Syria

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin will travel Sunday to Israel, Jordan and Syria to hold talks on the Middle East peace process, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced on Friday. The visit comes after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a landmark agreement last week on limited Palestinian autonomy in parts of the Israeli-occupied territories. "Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, does not want to pass up any opportunity to guarantee the implementation of the accord," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing.

Moellmann to meet Arafat in Tunis

BONN (AFP) — Former German Economy Minister Juergen Moellmann will meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis Saturday to discuss a possible German contribution to the Middle East peace process. Mr. Moellmann's office announced Friday. Mr. Moellmann, a deputy in the lower house of the German parliament, the Bundestag, will become the first German politician to meet the Palestinian Liberation Organisation chief since the autonomy deal for the Palestinians was signed in Washington Monday. Mr. Moellmann held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Wednesday.

Israel sees ties with Vatican

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and the Vatican are "close" to normalising their relations, a top foreign ministry official said Friday after a meeting of a joint committee. "Israel and the Vatican have made progress towards normalising their relations and are close to an agreement," Eitan Margalit said. He would not divulge details of the long-awaited meeting of the Israel-Vatican committee which took place Monday and Tuesday, but said there were no big developments.

Safieh to make first visit home in 25 years

LONDON (R) — Afif Safieh, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's chief representative in Britain, plans to spend Christmas in Jerusalem, returning home for the first time in 25 years, his office said Friday. Mr. Safieh, a Christian who has headed the PLO delegation in London since 1991, would be accompanied by his wife and two daughters. Born in Jerusalem in 1950, Mr. Safieh was studying in Belgium during the 1967 war. Apart from a month-long visit to Jerusalem in 1968, he has not been back, spending the years in exile mostly in Europe.

Morocco holds final phase of elections

RABAT (AFP) — Voters went to the polls here Friday in elections to determine the final make-up of Morocco's next government, after an election campaign overshadowed by the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord. Three specific voting groups — regional councillors, professional bodies and workers' groups — began voting Friday afternoon for a total of 111 deputies, the final third of Morocco's 333-seat legislative assembly. On June 25, two-thirds of the assembly was directly elected by the Moroccan electorate. This time councillors will elect 69 deputies, professional bodies 32 and workers' representatives 10.

Paris court opens Demjanjuk probe

PARIS (AFP) — The Paris high court has begun a judicial investigation into the case of John Demjanjuk, alleged to have been a guard at the Nazi concentration camp at Sobibor in eastern Poland, a judicial official said Friday. The investigation into alleged "crimes against humanity," which began Thursday, was prompted by an action brought against Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk on Aug. 20 by lawyer Arno Klarsfeld, son of the French Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, on behalf of relatives of Jews who were deported from France.

King cautions against high hopes for quick peace

No decision yet to delay elections, but new situation warrants closer look

By Nora Bensouy
Washington Post Foreign Service

AMMAN — King Hussein, who has guided his nation through regional crises for four decades, expressed fears today (Sept. 16) that the shimmering new prospect for Middle East peace may raise Palestinian hopes too abruptly, bringing with it the danger of disillusionment. As a measure of his concern, King Hussein hinted in an interview that his government might postpone parliamentary elections planned for Nov. 8 — a vote officials here believe could become a referendum on this week's rapprochement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The elections, which would be the second here since 1989, had been billed as a bell-weather of democracy in the Middle East, but the fact that two-thirds of Jordan's 3.6 million people are Palestinians has given King Hussein and his government pause.

Speaking of the Israeli-PLO accord, King Hussein said, "Jordan is worried about the possibility that this opportunity for the establishment of a just and durable peace may raise expectations too quickly and therefore bring with it the dangers of a psychological setback when it is realized how much (more) needs to be done." He avoided any direct reference to ominous forecasts here that a future Palestinian state could at some point seek to supplant Jordanian sovereignty. The monarch insisted that his country's avowed march towards multi-party democracy would not be reversed, yet he signalled three times during the interview that plans for the fall elections were being rethought. In sum, he said, his government has not yet decided to shelve the hallor, "however, we have a new situation now that necessitates us thinking about it and examining it everywhere with the interest of maintaining democracy, yet at the same time maintaining cohe-

sion in the country." Mustapha Hamaneh, a leading scholar on electoral law in Jordan, argued in a separate interview that the elections, "need to be postponed" in the wake of the PLO-Israeli agreement — which many Palestinians assume will lead to ultimate confederation with neighbouring Jordan, if the Jordanians agree. "We don't want Jordan to become the centre of debate for that process — for or against," Hamaneh said, reflecting widespread apprehension here that any intra-Palestinian discord over the Israeli-PLO accord is bound to affect stability in Jordan. "This is the only country in the Arab world where such a debate can take place. It will overshadow all other issues, and this is detrimental for the process of social change here," he said, adding: "How can you have a legislative body that has been chosen exclusively over one issue? These are extremely challenging times for Jordan... (PLO



leader) Yasser Arafat did not pull a rabbit out of his hat, but a damned camel." The Israeli-PLO accord envisions eventual self-rule for the one million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which was part of Jordan until it fell to

Israeli troops during the 1967 Middle East war. King Hussein renounced all claims to the territory five years ago, saying this would allow Palestinians there to pursue their ideal of a separate homeland. But it also allowed Jordan to disengage from cumbersome administrative involvement with West Bank residents and exiles, and it limited West Bank representation in the Jordanian legislature. King Hussein has emphasised in several recent interviews that the time for confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state has not yet come, pointing out that such an association could only be forged by full-fledged and independent states, still a distant prospect for the Palestinians. To that end, he said, "we have called on our Palestinian brothers in the territories and elsewhere to stand together at this time, lest the results be tragic as far as they are concerned, and as far as their cause is concerned." Referring to the desultory

progress of bilateral negotiations to end a four-decade-old state of war between his country and Israel, King Hussein said that the Palestinian problem had been the "root cause" of the Middle East crisis and that Jordan had "been waiting until we saw progress" on that issue. Now, he said, "we have begun to prepare to look at our agenda with the Israeli side, and we hope that the rest will follow in terms of Syria and Lebanon, and eventually I hope it will all come together in a comprehensive peace." Last Tuesday Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali spelled out details of a Jordanian-Israeli agenda for further negotiations that was initiated in Washington by both sides that day. The plan provides for a phased improvement in relations between the two countries that would open the way for "implementation" of measures on which both sides can agree in advance of a comprehensive peace treaty. Such areas of cooperation would include water

and energy resources, environmental problems and, possibly installation of direct telephone links, Dr. Majali said. The most contentious issue in the talks concerns the return of Palestinian refugees who fled the West Bank to Jordan during the 1967 war and afterward. Failing their repatriation, Jordan is insisting on some form of compensation by Israel, in accordance with international law. "Hopefully," King Hussein said, "all of us can find a way of resolving the problem and finally setting down in a peaceful manner and beginning a new life. So this is not something that Israel can answer immediately, or Jordan, or the Palestinians; this is the beginning of the process." Long-standing psychological impediments separating Arabs and Israelis would fall if practical solutions materialise, the monarch said. Barriers would come down if a content of peace and opportunities that were never there before would present themselves.

Israel to allow back 400,000 refugees — PLO

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Israel has agreed to allow up to 400,000 Palestinian refugees of the 1967 war to return home over the next five years, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Friday. "Around 300,000 to 400,000 displaced persons will be allowed to return to the occupied territories during the interim period," a senior PLO official who did not want to be identified was quoted as saying by Reuters. He and another PLO official said Israel had agreed to the figure as part of the deal signed on Monday for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. "The PLO is demanding that Israel implement U.N. resolutions demanding that Palestinians forced from their homes in 1967 be allowed to return and those who fled in 1948 be given the choice of return or compensation. About 200,000 Palestinians fled during the 1967 war and between 800,000 and one million left in 1948."

Another official said Israel had agreed to begin immediate negotiations aimed at solving the refugee problems within two years. "We have an Israeli commitment for the issue of refugees within two years," said Saeb Erekat, deputy head of the Palestinian peace talks team. "That is the major issue which will either make or break the peace negotiations as a whole and the future of the peace process." The problem of refugees, particularly those from 1948 who would be returning to what is now Israel, is the most complex in the sweeping PLO-Israel agreement. Of the total world Palestinian population of about 5.5 million, three million live within the borders of mandatory Palestine. Most of the others live in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

In other developments related to the Israel-PLO agreement: — The PLO will set up offices in the United States within weeks, Dr. Erekat said. Dr. Erekat said the organisation would establish official representation after U.S. laws banning contacts with the PLO were repealed. "Because of the restart of dialogue and contacts with the American administration, the U.S. Congress will in the next few weeks repeal laws forbidding the PLO from opening offices on U.S. territory," Dr. Erekat said. "When this happens, the PLO will open a bureau to represent it officially in Washington," he said. The U.S. ambassador in Tun-

sia, Thomas McCarthy, had his first full meeting with the PLO Thursday, PLO sources said. Mr. McCarthy and Hakam Balawi, the PLO ambassador to Tunisia and a member of the Central Committee of the mainstream group Fatah, discussed implementing the peace agreement, the sources said. U.S. embassy officials saw Mr. Balawi last week and Mr. McCarthy was at Tunis airport on Wednesday to welcome PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat back from his trip to the United States. — Strengthened by his new public image after his first visit in 19 years to the United States, Mr. Arafat flew to Egypt on Thursday to thank President Hosni Mubarak for his role in securing the accord and seek his continued support.

Mr. Arafat returns to Egypt on Sunday to address a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers while early next week he plans to visit Jordan. A trip to Morocco is also expected. Dr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, visited Jordan Thursday after a trip to Iraq, which has remained silent on the accord, and PLO officials are also expected to visit Syria and Libya, according to Mr. Arafat. — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said a transitional Palestinian government will be formed in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank towns of Jericho after Israel's withdrawal. Dr. Ashrawi, who serves as spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, talked to reporters after arriving here from the latest round in Washington. She said many hurdles remained before the PLO's peace deal with Israel is implemented. It was signed Monday at the White House, goes into force Oct. 13 and anticipates Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza and Jericho by April 13.

"We have a lot of issues to address before the implementation of the agreement and before Israel's withdrawal," Dr. Ashrawi said. She said these included security and procedures for transferring power from the Israeli military government that has ruled the occupied territories. "We have to work on establishing Palestinian institutions and developing and strengthening the existing ones," she added. — The head of the PLO department for Arab and International Relations said Friday the normalisation of Israeli-Arab ties should be postponed until a global peace agreement is reached with all Arab states.



Palestinian scouts march with bagpipes and drums through the West Bank town of Ramallah to support the Israeli-Palestinian agreement (AFP photo)

Syrian media say Damascus insists on total Israeli withdrawal

DAMASCUS (AP) — State-run newspapers said Friday that Syria would not accept a peace settlement that fell short of returning Israeli-occupied territories. The Damascus government has insisted on the return of the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as part of any settlement. The newspaper Al Baath, organ of the ruling party, said Israel wanted to have peace while retaining occupied territory, but "this will not be accepted by Syria under any circumstances." Israel has said it needs the strategic Heights to ward off an attack, but reports from Washington have said the two sides might agree to a compromise under which the heights would be demilitarised and patrolled by American peacekeeping troops. The Syrian government has not commented on these reports and they cannot be confirmed here. The newspaper commentators would imply that, publicly, Syria insists on the Heights' full return to Syria. Other Syrian newspapers stressed the government's line that any peace agreement should be comprehensive, including all Arab parties to the conflict. It is not clear whether Syria is seriously out to wreck Arafat's accord with the Jewish state. President Bill Clinton, in a 40-minute telephone call to President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday, urged him to settle hardliners before they can seriously threaten the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

Israel's self-advised "security zone" is patrolled by 1,500 Israeli troops and by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), a 3,000-man surrogate militia. Attacks against the Israeli troops there are generally accepted among Lebanese, who resent their presence. "No government of Israel has ever demanded a centimetre of the sovereign land of Lebanon," Mr. Rabin said. "All we want is security." He added that after peace agreement is reached, SLA should be dismantled, with some of its fighters possibly joining the Lebanese army. The pre-recorded interview was taped in Rabat, Morocco, on Tuesday. Mr. Rabin said a surprise visit to Morocco on his return from Washington, where an Israeli accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was signed. Mr. Rabin said the success of the accord that will give self-rule to Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho was dependent on foreign economic aid, but he did not want to see it taken from the \$3 billion the U.S. gives Israel annually. Also Thursday, Israel said it was sending two top diplomats to Tunisia next week to prepare for next month's multilateral discussions there on Palestinian refugees. Foreign ministry spokesman Uri Pelti said it will be the first time an official Israeli delegation would visit Tunisia. He said Shlomo Gur, a political adviser to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, and media adviser Yossi Gal would leave Monday. Mr. Gur was one of the handful

occupies and withdraw from the country after a six-month trial period, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview broadcast Thursday. "Let's start confidence building measures and let's start with Lebanon," Mr. Rabin said in the interview made for the Jewish new year. In the same vein, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the time has come for Israel to make peace with all Arab states. "There are 24 Arab countries and just as we made the normalisation with China and India and many other countries, here too we have to make peace... with all 24," Mr. Peres said on Israel Television. The Arab League has only 21 members. It was not clear why Mr. Peres was referring to 24. Mr. Rabin said he made his offer on Lebanon in August through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He said Israel was willing to let Lebanon deploy up to 3,000 troops in southern Lebanon next to the Israel forces to disarm guerrillas who have attacked Israel. "If they can prove for six months or more that they are capable of preventing terror, then I am willing to come to a peace treaty with Lebanon within three months," Mr. Rabin said. "We will withdraw to the international border." In Beirut, Lebanese officials had no immediate comment on Mr. Rabin's offer. They have rejected it before, demanding a full Israeli withdrawal. Mr. Rabin criticised Syria for torpedoing the original deal by pressuring the Lebanese government to send just 400 troops to southern Lebanon, too few to deal with Hizbollah.

Palestinian dies amid pro-, anti-accord rallies

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN (J.T.) The first stone a Palestinian teenager shot by Israeli troops during a clash in the occupied Gaza Strip a week ago died of his wounds Friday, Palestinian sources said. Imad Hassan Al Sharif, 16, was shot in the head during a violent protest in the Rafah refugee camp against the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy pact, the sources said. His death takes to 1,124 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire since the intifada began in the occupied territories six years ago, according to an AFP toll compiled from Palestinian sources. The news of his death sparked angry demonstrations in Gaza City, witnesses said. The Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem were largely shut down on Friday by a strike call from the Islamic resistance Movement Hamas, which opposes the peace agreement signed with Israel. Hamas has been calling for a work stoppage on the 17th of each month to mark Israel's expulsion of some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon last December 17. Last week, 181 expellees were allowed back into the Gaza Strip and West Bank, most of them to serve prison terms. The remaining expelled Palestinians are still

stranded in South Lebanon. Thousands of Palestinians, staged demonstrations Thursday across the occupied Gaza Strip to show support for the autonomy plan, while Islamic militants vowed to kill PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The demonstrations came on the second day of a four-day closure of Gaza, announced by the Israeli military for the Jewish new year holiday. The holiday began Wednesday evening. The main rally was held at Gaza City's Palestine Square, where the demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and portraits of Mr. Arafat, listening to a band. Some were dancing. "Yes to Gaza and Jericho" they chanted. "Welcome, Arafat and Rabin." Other slogans referred to opponents of the agreement, which grants Palestinians self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. "Shut your mouth, Ahmad Yassin, we are with Arafat," shouted the demonstrators, denouncing a leader of Hamas. The elderly Sheikh Yassin is serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail. The demonstrators then boarded dozens of buses and vans to drive through the streets of Gaza City. Israeli soldiers were nowhere to be seen. (Continued on page 3)

Israeli, PLO leaders win first peace award

PARIS (Agencies) — The leaders of the Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Friday won the first of an expected string of international prizes for their landmark peace agreement. The U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) awarded its annual Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. It came just four days after Israel and the PLO signed an accord on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho at a White House ceremony in Washington, raising the prospect of ending decades of Arab-Israeli bloodshed in the Middle East. A jury headed by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger selected the three-men, who will receive the prize at a ceremony later this year. The UNESCO prize was first awarded in 1991, going jointly to South African President F. W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela. Last year, the prize went to the International Academy of Law in the Hague. The award carries with it 800,000 francs (\$144,000) in prize money.

"There was no doubt about the war. In this dramatic year, the signing of the accord between Israel and the PLO was by far the most important event," Dr. Kissinger told journalists at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Asked whether the agreement was as big a breakthrough for Middle East peace as the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt, he said: "It can have the same importance but it is more complicated. Major issues have yet to be settled and the follow-up will be more difficult." The award by UNESCO came at a time when U.S. President Bill Clinton is considering whether the United States should rejoin the organisation after quitting it with Britain in the mid-1980s in protest against its alleged anti-Western bias. One of the issues which alienated conservative U.S. and British governments at the time was a perceived pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli bias by the U.N. agency. The Israeli and PLO leaders, who announced mutual recognition last week after eight months of secret negotiations in Norway, may be too late to win this year's Nobel Peace Prize, to be announced in Oslo on Oct. 15.

U.N. wants more troops in Somalia

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — With violence increasing in Mogadishu, the U.N.'s top envoy in Somalia says he requires up to 5,000 additional troops to keep order in the Somali capital.

Jonathan Howe, a retired American admiral, also disclosed a tentative 18-month timetable for recreating a Somali government, an indication most of the 23,000 U.N. troops might no longer be needed by then.

But he told a news conference Thursday that the United Nations would have to establish control over Mogadishu, where its troops are battling forces loyal to warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided.

Adm. Howe said he wanted another brigade, between 3,000 and 5,000 men for the capital, although diplomats say few states are volunteering because of mounting casualties and the U.N.'s inability to reimburse contributing nations.

The United Nations has about 12,000 troops in Mogadishu, many of them support and logistics staff.

U.N. troops in the capital have been under siege since gunmen loyal to Gen. Aided killed 24 Pakistani peacekeepers on June 5 at the start of a guerrilla war to drive them from the country. Gen. Aided has eluded capture since then.

Nevertheless, Adm. Howe said he expected nationwide general elections in January 1995 and a transitional national government established as early as 1994.

He said 30 of the country's 66 district councils had been set up and were expected to take over gradually the administration of local police and judiciary functions. Between 1994 and 1996 a major economic development programme could begin, including the return of more than a million refugees.

The United States has already circulated a new Security Council resolution approving a recent proposal by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to rebuild the country's police force and judicial

institutions.

The plan, expected to cost \$60 million, may be approved by the council next week, U.S. diplomats said.

Adm. Howe returned to the United States for consultations with U.N. officials and to convince members of the U.S. Congress that the Somali operation is on the right track despite the difficulties in Mogadishu.

He said the media and much of the world was ignoring progress the United Nations had made in restoring some semblance of normalcy in vast areas outside the capital.

But he turned down an Italian suggestion to negotiate with Gen. Aided.

France to withdraw forces

France is to withdraw its troops serving with U.N. forces in Somalia between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15, General Philippe Mercier, operations director for the general staff, said Friday.

The withdrawal, announced at the beginning of the summer by Defence Minister Francois Leotard, will include all France's forces, which are based around the town of Baidoa.

The area was one of the worst hit by famine and violence last year but was now described as "very calm" by Gen. Mercier.

The general told a press conference in Paris there had been excellent relations between French troops and Somalis.

Mediation bid stalls

Two envoys from Ethiopia and Eritrea left Mogadishu Friday after an unsuccessful initial bid to mediate between the United Nations and Gen. Aided.

The two diplomats, Haile Menkerios of Eritrea and Lissane Yohannes of Ethiopia, had spent about a week in Somalia's embattled capital attempting to broker a political solution to the bloody conflict between Gen. Aided's rag-tag militia and U.N. peacekeepers.

"Neither side was willing to

change its position, so nothing came out of it," said a diplomatic source.

Rangers arrest wrong people

U.S. Army Rangers have made a second embarrassing mistake in their search for Gen. Aided, arresting supporters of the warlord's arch enemy. Ranger troops also killed an armed Somali during a new raid Friday.

A U.N. spokesman confirmed details of an airborne assault in which Rangers arrested supporters Ali Mahdi Mohammad, a foe of Gen. Aided's who backs the U.N. effort to restore stability in Somalia.

Somali newspapers and sources reported the Ranger troops, searching for Gen. Aided, on Tuesday stormed a compound belonging to an Ali Mahdi supporter who is helping the U.N. programme to restore the Somali police force.

Gen. Aided and the others arrested were released with apologies soon after the raid, said a source who insisted on anonymity.

In a similar incident last month, Rangers dropped on ropes from helicopters in an elaborate raid to seize Gen. Aided, only to discover the building they raided was a project office of the U.N. Development Programme. Three foreign U.N. workers and five Somali employees were detained in that incident.

Ciampi urges dialogue

Italian Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said Friday the U.N. mission in Somalia should not turn into a "police operation."

Mr. Ciampi, in the United States on an official visit, was talking to politicians ahead of a meeting with President Bill Clinton in Washington later Friday. "The mission in Somalia must not transform itself into a police in a meeting with members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Two Italian soldiers were shot

dead by snipers in the capital Mogadishu on Wednesday, bringing the total number of Italian fatalities in Somalia to six over the past three months.

Three were killed in an ambush in July and another shot himself accidentally.

On Thursday in Rome, Italy's Defence Minister Fabio Fabbrì launched a call for dialogue between the U.N. and Somali political forces.

"What is needed is an initiative capable of reducing tensions, breaking the spiral of violence and starting a dialogue," Mr. Fabbrì told parliament.

President Clinton met later with Mr. Ciampi where talks focused on their differences over the United Nations' policy in Somalia.

"My main concern is not to allow the situation to deteriorate to the condition which it was in before the United Nations went there," Mr. Clinton said before the talks got underway in the Oval Office.

"Obviously, we would like it if some political initiative could be taken to stop the current violence," he added.

"We certainly can't afford to do anything that would permit the country, after all the effort the United Nations has made, to deteriorate to its former condition where hundreds of thousands of people are killed or starved at random," Mr. Clinton said.

It was the first meeting between Mr. Ciampi and Mr. Clinton since they met on the sidelines of the Group of Seven industrialised nations summit in Tokyo in July.

The U.N. Security Council is mulling a draft resolution that would call on the United Nations to begin work on a Somali police force and legal system, according to a text being circulated Friday.

The draft resolution, backed by the United States, urges Dr. Ghali to move quickly to establish a Somali police force and legal system, as well as encourage peace talks and national reconciliation.

It also condemns attacks on U.N. peacekeepers.

UNRWA has a key role in rebuilding Gaza infrastructure

VIENNA (R) — With the handshakes over, the real manual labour of rebuilding the Gaza Strip and Jericho after this week's historic Middle East peace accord has to begin, a top U.N. aid agency official said.

Inter Turken, commissioner general of the Vienna-based United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) said investment in the newly-autonomous areas was vital to secure popular Palestinian backing for the deal.

"In Gaza there is tremendous enthusiasm for the peace process. There are of course great expectations, which are very good — but also dangerous because they can lead to great frustrations," he told Reuters in an interview.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali last week set up a task force to coordinate social and economic aid, where UNRWA is represented with the U.N. Development Programme, the World Health Organisation and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The team will present an action plan by the end of next week. But UNRWA, which already runs education, medical, welfare and jobs programmes for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, already has the people on the ground to take decisive early action, Mr. Turken said.

It is clear to us that in the short term UNRWA will have a lot to do, particularly in Gaza," he said.

The agency has 5,000 workers in Gaza and devotes \$75 million of its \$300 million annual budget to the territory.

Nevertheless, living conditions in the tiny strip of land — home to 800,000 Palestinians — have deteriorated badly since the intifada began in 1987.

In addition to existing programmes, UNRWA has already drafted a list of \$45 million in key investment projects which could be implemented ahead of elections scheduled next summer.

"Our proposal is that in the short term, which means the nine months leading up to the elections, we have to have a concen-

trated programme of investment in order to create as rapidly as possible employment in Gaza," he said.

But UNRWA's role in the five-year transition period that is aimed at bringing a lasting settlement between Israelis and Palestinians is less clear, Mr. Turken said.

"The PLO would like UNRWA to continue for the interim period, which is for the next five years, if everything goes smoothly and at the end of this period there is a permanent solution."

"But our operations are not limited to West Bank and Gaza. We also have operations in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, where you have something close to 1.8 million refugees."

"Our activities will continue there also in the interim period, but if there is a permanent solution — which should include a solution of the problem of the refugees — then UNRWA's mandate will come to an end," he said.

UNRWA, established in 1950 and based in Vienna since moving from Beirut in 1976, has never had a permanent U.N. mandate.

In the meantime, Mr. Turken hopes that UNRWA can play a role in putting to work some of the money pledged by the World Bank, the European Community and Gulf states towards investment in the region.

"In the light of the report of the task force, the U.N. will decide how to distribute this money — I am sure that UNRWA will receive part of it towards the financing needs of the short-term period. In the short term we can do a lot more than the other agencies," he said.

But for the moment, UNRWA's role in Dr. Ghali's overall plans — discussed Tuesday night at a meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat in New York — remains unclear until the task force's findings are approved.

"What we don't know is whether we'll be asked to continue and for how long, whether we will hand over to whom," UNRWA spokesman Emil Pyyri said.

S. Arabia sets up regional structures

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Thursday issued decrees dividing the country into 13 regions and outlining the structure of new regional assemblies.

Following his appointment last month of a national Shura (consultative) council to assist the government in ruling the kingdom, the new decrees will give Saudis at local level a greater say in running their regional affairs.

Regions under the decree will continue to be run by the emirs (governors) appointed by the king, but in future they will each be advised by an appointed council, similar to the 60-member national Shura which included senior religious, business and intellectual figures from outside the ruling family.

The national Shura's appointment gave commoners a say in the running of the kingdom for the first time in almost 60 years. Thursday's decrees said each region would be headed by an emir and a wakil (deputy). Each province will in turn be divided into smaller units run by appointed administrators.

The emir would chair a region-

al council, which should meet every three months, according to the decrees.

Council members would be made up of heads of regional government offices, and at least 10 distinguished local men aged 30 or over, serving four-year terms.

King Fahd would choose members from a list of candidates nominated by the local emir and approved by the minister of interior, the decree said.

The councils should "determine the needs of the region" and suggest ways local needs could be met through the kingdom's national development plan.

They should also "propose projects which would benefit local people and encourage the people to participate in them," the decree said.

The new system "aims to enhance the level of administrative and developmental work in the regions of the kingdom as well as preserve security and order and ensure rights of citizens and freedom in the framework of the Islamic Sharia (law)," the decree said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLO and EC plan aid programme

BRUSSELS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began detailed planning with the European Community Thursday for aid to underpin its peace accord with Israel. Nabil Shaath, senior political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, discussed assistance for sewage works, health services and education, commission sources said. Dr. Shaath and lunch with Development Commissioner Manuel Marin and also met the commissioners for external political relations, Hans van den Broek, and energy and transport, Abel Matutes. The sources said both sides believed efficient economic aid was essential once the political groundwork had been laid for granting Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. They also agreed that the commission should coordinate aid from member states and help in wider coordination of aid efforts from such sources as the World Bank and the Nordic countries. The commissioners confirmed the EC's invitation to Mr. Arafat to visit Brussels, but dates have still to be fixed both for this and for a proposed joint visit to the EC by Israeli and PLO experts. EC finance ministers on Monday approved 20 million ECUS (\$24 million) in short-term economic aid for the occupied territories.

German police warn Kurds against attacks

MUNICH (R) — Kurdish militants plan a wave of attacks and occupations at Kurdish offices in Germany similar to a European-wide raid in June in which one demonstrator was killed, police said Thursday. Police in Munich were Kurds occupied the Turkish consulate-general during their June protests, said Turkey's offices and businesses could again be a target. A statement from police headquarters said its warning was based on threats in leaflets distributed in Germany by the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), whose battle in southeast Turkey for independence has cost 6,300 lives since 1984. Turkey's first woman prime minister, Tansu Ciller, arrives in Bonn Monday for a two-day visit. Germany's 1.8-million Turks make up the largest foreign community in the country.

IOC may invite Palestinians to Atlanta

ATLANTA (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will probably be asked this week to consider inviting Palestinian athletes to participate in the 1996 games in Atlanta, a spokesman for the Atlanta Organising Committee said Thursday. The Palestinians have been pariahs since the 1972 Olympics in Munich when a group of guerrillas broke into the Olympic village, seized Israeli athletes and eventually killed 11 of them and one policeman. Five of the guerrillas died when they attempted to take their hostages out of the country. The IOC executive board probably will be asked by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to consider a Palestinian invitation when it meets on Friday in Monaco, according to Dick Yarrhough, the ACOG spokesman.

Family to visit British prisoner in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Julie Ride, whose husband Paul is serving seven-year jail sentence in Iraq, arrived in Baghdad on Thursday to visit her husband. Mr. Ride, a 33-year-old Briton who worked as a catering manager in Kuwait, is in jail for illegally entering Iraq last August after straying across the border. Mrs. Ride, who brought her two-year-old son William, made no comment on arrival but a Russian diplomat said earlier that she was expected to stay in Baghdad for four days. Met by reporters after a long mini-bus journey from Amman, she turned to a Russian diplomat who helped her check into her hotel and said: "You're supposed to protect me from this." Speaking to a reporter later by telephone from her hotel room, Mrs. Ride said: "This is a private visit."

Arafat delays visit to Greece

ATHENS (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has asked to delay by a week a visit to Greece scheduled to begin Monday, a Palestinian diplomat said Friday. A spokesman for the PLO office here said Mr. Arafat had asked for the delay of his first visit to a European Community country since the signing of an agreement with Israel because of official visit to an EC country for two years in January 1989.

Lebanese victim of Kuwaiti rape demands public trial of suspect

By P. V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Lebanese woman who has accused a Kuwaiti intelligence officer of raping her and murdering her father and brother in March 1991 is demanding that court hearings of the case be held in public and her representatives be given access to the proceedings.

Naimat Farhat, 35, is also accusing the Kuwaiti government of trying to cover up the case since, she says, senior Ministry of Interior officials are involved in the affair.

Miss Farhat, who now lives in Santa Cruz, California, with her brother Naim, was found with gunshot wounds in her head at her residence in "Kuwait City on March 2, 1991, a few days after Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation."

The bullet-ridden bodies of her father Ismail and brother Osama were in another room. According to Miss Farhat, she was helped by neighbours and friends and later moved to a Kuwaiti hospital and then to the U.S. where her brother Naim Farhat arranged for surgery. She survived, but is crippled and needs constant help to move about.

It was one of the typical cases of atrocities committed by vengeful Kuwaitis who went on a rampage against non-Kuwaitis in the post-war emi-

rate. Jordanians and Palestinians bore the brunt of their wrath if only because their leaders refused to join the U.S.-led multinational military coalition that drove out the Kuwaitis.

Miss Farhat says a lone Kuwaiti officer came to the residence, threatened the family with a gun. He forced Miss Farhat to huddle her brother and father, took her to another room and raped her twice.

He shot her in the head, went out and shot the two men outside. Naim Farhat picked up his family's cause and exerted efforts with the U.S., Lebanese and Kuwaiti governments, and after a flurry of high-profile media reports, the emirate's government launched an investigation into the case.

Subsequently, Jaber Abdullah al Motairi al Omairi, a former Kuwaiti intelligence operative, was detained. The man is said to be still suffering from injuries in a car accident, which, his lawyer says, happened "several days before" the day Miss Farhat says her family was shot dead and she was raped.

According to Mr. Omairi's lawyer, Khaled Al Nagesh, his client could not have committed the crime simply because he was not in a physical condition to have done so.

Miss Farhat travelled to Kuwait in July with her brother

and lawyers and positively identified Mr. Omairi as the assailant in court before returning to the U.S.

Since then, the court has held several sessions, all of them behind closed doors. Mr. Farhat charges that the Kuwaiti authorities denied a visa for Egyptian lawyer Yahya Abdul Latif Al Rifai, who was retained by his sister to represent her in court.

Mr. Farhat, speaking on behalf of his sister, also says that representatives of the U.S. and Lebanese embassies in Kuwait as well as human rights organisations were denied entry to the secret court sessions.

"To anyone who is really concerned about true justice, secret courtroom proceedings are an invitation to the manipulation of facts," Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times over the phone.

Mr. Farhat raised several other points, which, he says, are strong indications that the Kuwaiti government was seeking to predetermine the outcome of the case.

He said "witnesses" were present in Kuwait who could testify that Mr. Omairi was accompanied by at least two other officials from the Ministry of Interior who waited outside the Farhat residence while the crimes were committed.

"They were there under orders," he said. "Someone gave those orders and someone planned the killings."

"We demand a full investigation and prosecution of all persons, no matter what their station, who were involved in the rape and the attempted murder of Naimat Farhat and the deaths of Ismail Farhat and Osama Farhat," he said.

By limiting the "scope of the case to one man," the Kuwaiti authorities are trying to ensure that "the conspiracy behind the murders and rape is not revealed," Mr. Farhat charged.

Contrary to usual court proceedings, names of prosecution witnesses were released publicly in Kuwait in this case apparently with the aim of pressuring them into withdrawing their willingness to testify in court, he said.

Furthermore, he said, the authorities allowed the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) to interview the suspect and carry his denial of the charges against him in the Kuwaiti media.

"There are dozens of non-Kuwaiti prisoners in Kuwait, including Palestinians and Jordanians and others," Mr. Farhat said. "Why the preferential treatment in this case?"

Mr. Farhat, whose persistent efforts succeeded against obvious Kuwaiti opposition to opening the case, vowed: "There will not be bureaucratic amnesia in Kuwait. We will not let the Kuwaiti ministries sleep."

Warring Sudan factions to cooperate in relief effort

NAIROBI (AP) — Rival Sudanese rebel factions Thursday agreed to cooperate to ensure delivery of relief supplies to millions of sick, starving and displaced people in their war-torn country.

International aid groups said they viewed the development with caution because factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have broken previous agreements to allow the safe delivery of food and medicine.

But they said the very fact the groups are talking about cooperating could lead to reconciliation between them.

"We can hope," said Brenda Barton, spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Under the sponsorship of the umbrella Sudan Council of Churches, representatives of two main rebel factions, Sudanese women's groups and other grassroots organisations Thursday signed a statement asking to play a greater role in Sudan's emergency relief efforts and in long-term rehabilitation projects.

The statement appealed to private and government international aid groups to train more Sudanese to work in these areas.

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 against the mostly Muslim and Arab government in Khartoum to win a bigger share of Sudan's wealth and power for Christians and blacks in the coun-

try's undeveloped south.

All sides in the conflict have hampered delivery of relief supplies. Over the past 10 years an estimated one million people have died from war, starvation, disease, flooding or drought, and at least two million people are reported currently displaced.

But factional fighting since a September 1991 split among rebels — particularly clashes in recent months in the country's worst famine areas — has destroyed feeding centres, halted food deliveries and sent thousands of severely malnourished people fleeing into the bush, where they are doomed to almost certain death.

Following the recent fighting, rebel groups signed two U.S.-brokered agreements to move all fighters out of an area so desperate it has been dubbed the "hunger triangle" by aid workers.

"We realised that the efforts being made by the international community to save the lives of the millions affected by war and natural disasters were being frustrated by what is happening among ourselves," Mario Muor Muor, head of relief for the rebel faction led by John Garang, said Thursday.

Carlo Madut Deng, relief official for the rival faction led by Riek Machar, said he believed military leaders would get behind efforts to improve humanitarian programmes.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:30 Envoyé Spécial
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fictive Sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 It's a Wacky World
21:00 Perspective
21:30 Varieties
22:00 News in English
22:30 Foreign Film: "Overload"

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
05:16 (Sunrise) Duha
12:30 Dhuhr
16:00 Asr
18:44 Maghreb
19:02 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810749
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627785
St. Joseph's Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot with north-westerly winds becoming moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 20 / 33

Aqaba 26 / 39

Deserts 18 / 38

Jordan Valley 26 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34.4, Aqaba 38. Humidity read-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 884446

Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas 791153

Dr. Mukhlis Mazahreh 820425

Firas pharmacy 661912

Pardows pharmacy 778336

Nairooka pharmacy 623672

Al Asma pharmacy 637025

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 277757

Senate speaker addresses world parliamentarians

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Friday said Jordan views the peace process which was launched in Madrid almost two years ago as a unique historic opportunity to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

He said Jordan's firm commitment to the cause of peace is reflected in its recognition of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Addressing the 90th session of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), currently being held in Canberra, Australia, Mr. Lawzi said Jordan has always called for implementing resolutions 242 and 338.

The Senate speaker voiced Jordan's support for the "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, saying that it constitutes the beginning of the comprehensive and just solution which the Arab parties involved have always sought.

Based on its firm commitment, Jordan has signed the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, which was agreed upon two months ago, Mr. Lawzi said.

He called on the international community to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination on their national soil, and to achieve a just



Ahmad Al Lawzi

and comprehensive peace along with other Arab parties involved. To do this, the international community should provide all elements of success, including Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied West Bank including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and South Lebanon, and removing Israeli settlements, he said.

Mr. Lawzi also called on the international community to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, by providing their basic needs for food and medicine and keeping them from the looming dangers of starvation and epidemics.

Seminar to study health in prison

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, will hold a seminar on "Health in Prison" on Sept. 22 and 23 at the Royal Cultural Centre with the participation of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Jordanian physicians associated with detention centres throughout Jordan will participate in this seminar.

The planned lectures and ex-

changes of views are meant to permit the participants to later train their other colleagues concerned with health in detention on how to deal with the sensitive problems of this particular field, said an ICRC statement.

Papers to be presented at the two-day seminar include:

- Medical ethics and prison
- Psychiatry and detention
- Water and sanitation
- Infection in prison
- Forgotten prisoner: the women; and
- Conflicts between health services and security.

Stone-setting event to be held in Karak

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first stone of the new hospital in Karak will be laid Sunday and a ceremony to celebrate the occasion will be held by Karak Governorate authorities and the Karak Municipality.

The construction of the new hospital started on Aug. 1, 1993. It will take around 18 months to complete, at a cost of around \$8.5 million, \$7 million of which are grants from the Italian government and the rest in civil works, funded by the Jordanian authorities through a tender with a local company.

It will have a 120-bed capacity, which can be immediately doubled and services for 250 people, on 6,000 square metres, with the latest and most sophisticated, technologically advanced Italian equipment, according to Italian embassy statement.

The hospital will be able to serve around 150,000 citizens in Karak governorate.

The Italian government is funding and supervising technical and construction works carried out jointly by an Italian and a Jordanian company.

Rome is also providing experts and designs for the project.

The hospital will include units for surgery, internal diseases, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatrics, intensive care, emergency and first-aid sections, laboratories, a pharmacy and affiliated services.

The construction of the new hospital is the completion of the wider and comprehensive project to reorganise primary health services in Karak governorate.

The total engagement by the Italian government for this project is around \$9 million and its main aims are training of local personnel, improving regional health facilities and creating a registration and treatment system for patients to become a model applicable to other parts of the country and a training centre for professional nurses and paramedics.

According to the embassy statement, the project has another important component in the "Clinical Instructors Programme," jointly executed in Jordan by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jordanian Ministry of Health.

The project started in 1988 by establishing a 9-month diploma course training senior nurses for the position of clinical instructors.

The main goal of the project has been the improvement of the quality of nursing care in the Kingdom through the utilisation of skilled nurse clinical instructors.

Since its start 45 instructors have been trained and are now deployed in the main Jordanian hospitals.

They are providing regular training to the nurses while on service.

Land protection project to start in Zarqa basin

AMMAN (Petra) — Three local firms are to conduct soil-related projects at a cost of JD450,000 within seven months as part of current project to develop the Zarqa River Basin.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was signed by Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal Thursday, 318 farms of a total area of 15,400 dunams will benefit from the construction of 80,000 metres of retaining walls and 2,000 cubic metres of stone walls to protect farms located along the waterway.

Under the agreement also, the

three firms will carry out other soil related schemes such as opening contours and raising existing walls.

The farms to benefit from the project are located in the areas of Kitfeh, Jerash, Rumein, Aljoub, Zarqa, Mafrag and are aimed at helping the local farmers drive to reclaim lands for more food production.

The soil maintenance project in and around the Zarqa River Basin is part of a project to prevent soil erosion in lands along the Zarqa River which flows into the King Talal Dam.

Jordan, PLO to form panel to review future cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed to set up a higher joint committee which in turn would form sub-committees to discuss important questions relevant to their future mutual cooperation.

The announcement of the agreement, which followed a meeting here Thursday between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and head of the PLO's Political Department Farouk Al Kaddoumi, said the sub-committees will discuss such matters as Jerusalem; the refugees; economic, security and border affairs; water issues; and social, educational and health cooperation.

The two sides agreed that the sub-committees should hold regular meetings.

Dr. Majali said the Jordanian government would be ready to provide assistance to the Palestinians in their drive to set up their own national institutions.

Dr. Majali and Mr. Kaddoumi reviewed the latest developments in the region in the wake of the PLO-Israeli agreement and the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

The two sides said that the higher joint committee was



Abdul Salam Al Majali



Farouk Al Kaddoumi

needed to further enhance the special relationship between Jordan and the PLO.

Earlier Thursday, Dr. Majali sent a cable to Palestine President Yasser Arafat congratulating him on the PLO-Israeli deal and the Israeli recognition of the PLO's leadership of the Palestinian people.

Referring to the PLO deal, the Prime Minister said, "It came to pave the ground for helping the Palestinians regain their legitimate rights and was brought about because of your intensive

stand in supporting the independent decision of the Palestinian leadership. Dr. Majali said, "Jordan has refrained from taking any step along its track with the Israelis until progress had been achieved on the Israeli-Palestinian track."

"We fully support the independent Palestinian decision and will continue to provide any possible assistance to the Palestinian people," concluded the premier.

The prime minister received a reply cable from President Arafat in which the PLO leader voiced deep appreciation to the King, government and people of Jordan for their continued support for the Palestinian people.

"May I express deep appreciation of and pride in the role you personally played during the peace process, and I hereby reaffirm the PLO's determination to pursue the process of coordination, cooperation and consultation with the Jordanian government," said Mr. Arafat.

He said the PLO-Israeli Gaza-Jericho first agreement was only part of an overall plan for the establishment of the Palestinian self-rule over the whole of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kaabneh returns from France

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh returned home Friday after a five-day official visit to France.

Minister leaves for Arab League Council talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataun Al Hassan Friday left for Cairo at the head of an official Jordanian delegation to take part in the 100th session of the Arab League Council, which will be held there Sunday. In a departure statement Mr. Al Hassan said the council is convened in critical circumstances, following the latest developments of the peace process and the mutual recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israel and the United States. Mr. Al Hassan said he will brief the council on His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to support the Palestinian decision and highlight the Palestinian identity. He added that he will also explain Jordan's firm positions on the peace process. On the session's agenda, Mr. Al Hassan said it includes important issues, including the Palestine question, the Euro-Arab dialogue, the African-Arab dialogue, Arab relations with international, regional blocs and common Arab work.

2 health seminars scheduled at university

AMMAN (Petra) — Two workshops on modern trends to improve health will be held at the University of Jordan today (Saturday) and Tuesday respectively. Taking part in the workshops will be representatives of the Ministry of Health, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) health services, the University of Jordan and representatives of private sector health institutions.

Arabian horse festival to begin Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arabian Horse Festival will begin here Monday under the Royal patronage. The festival, which will be held at the Royal Stables, including a horse-riding competition which will take place Wednesday and Thursday at Hussein Youth City field. The preparatory committee for the festival, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, is pursuing efforts to ensure the success of the festival.

Haya centre to start month-long programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Haya Arts Centre in Amman Saturday will start implementing a month-long cultural programme for children in Jordan. Nabih Riyal, the centre's director, said school children will benefit from programmes related to astronomy, plays performed by the Haya centre's children, and cultural and scientific competitions. The centre will organize trips for the youngsters to the Haya Arts Centre and orient them on the special Housing Bank branch which offers services to children, said Mr. Riyal. The children will also be familiarised with the special science museum and other activities, Mr. Riyal added. All the events the month will be conducted during school hours when the children can come to the centre in groups, but the Cinderella play which will be presented at the centre will be performed on Thursday and Friday afternoons each week, Mr. Riyal said.

Palestinian boy dies amid rallies

(Continued from page 1)

Another demonstration in support of the agreement was held in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp. Arab reports said several thousand people took part.

Small groups of Muslim fundamentalists also took to the streets of Gaza City, shouting slogans against Mr. Arafat.

In the village of Beit Lahia, a few hundred people raised black flags and green Islamic banners near the home of a Palestinian who was shot to death Sunday after he fatally stabbed an Israeli bus driver.

"Martyr blood is our key to paradise," the protesters shouted. "Wait, Abu Ammar (Arafat)

Islamic Jihad will kill you just like Sadat."

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated by fundamentalists in 1981 after concluding a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Speakers denounced Mr. Arafat as traitor and pro-Israeli collaborator, and some said the peace deal will allow Israel to seize Muslim holy places.

The demonstrators also tramped upon and burned American and Israeli flags, chanting: "Arafat, the new Sadat, nobody is with you."

A letter from an Islamic Jihad leader in Damascus, Satehi Shukaki, urged them to fight the peace accord.

Media say Syria wants full pullout

(Continued from page 1)

of Israelis who were involved with the secret talks with the PLO.

Mr. Beilin will lead the delegation at the talks, scheduled for mid-October, Mr. Pelti said. The talks supplement the bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

They include working groups on water, regional economic cooperation and the environment made up of representatives from

Middle East countries meeting in various world capitals.

Until now, Israel has boycotted multinational meetings attended by Palestinians from outside the occupied territories. It wished to avoid the issue of right-of-return for Palestinians who fled when Israel was created in 1948.

Guerrillas attacked two SLA positions in South Lebanon Friday, security sources said.

They said the guerrillas fired 81 mm mortar bombs at an SLA post near Kfar Houneh village.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of children's paintings at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Minister Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bikar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Falek.
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Amor Aouens and Salam Kattan at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Funs of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawzi (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esheika Art Gallery, Amara Shopping Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Omar Al Basoul entitled "Environment and Heritage in Jordan" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Israeli journalists leave Amman after told they 'overstayed welcome'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Israeli journalists who entered Jordan and filed reports to Israeli Television and Israel Radio through-out last week left Amman early Thursday after authorities let them know that they "had overstayed their welcome."

Information Minister Ma'ani Abu Nowar said Friday.

Dr. Abu Nowar said the two, Dan Semama of Israel Television and Yitzhak Feller of Israel Radio, had entered the Kingdom on French and U.S. passports respectively and did not inform the Ministry of Information that they represented Israeli media.

"It was a clear case of deception," he said, "and we resent it."

"We knew from the very moment of their entry they were Israelis, but we did not want to create a problem at a time when Jordan and Israel were poised to sign the agenda for peace negotiations," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

"It was not prejudice or hostility that led them to know that they had overstayed their welcome, hinting that they had better leave," the minister said.

"We felt it was too early for such interaction" between Jordan and Israel since the two countries have a long way to go before concluding a peace agreement on the basis of the principles outlined in the agenda signed in Washington on Tuesday, he said.

Dr. Abu Nowar said the authorities had put the two under surveillance "for their

own protection since we did not want any harm to come to them."

It was not immediately clear where the two had headed for after leaving Jordan. Dr. Abu Nowar said they were not "deported" and that "they left on their free will."

The minister did not say how the two were told they were not welcome in Jordan at this point in time, but diplomatic sources said the French and U.S. embassies were informed of how Amman viewed the presence of the two carrying French and American passports.

Many Jordanians who watch Israel Television were jolted early this week to see it carry its own reports from Amman, marking the first time the Israeli Broadcasting Authority (IBA) had its own correspondents filing from the Jordanian capital.

Jordan Television refused to transmit their reports, the journalists themselves told journalists who met them.

Some of the reports carried footage from Amman with the photos of the correspondent superimposed. At least one report showed Mr. Semama and Mr. Feller talking to people in downtown Amman from a distance.

Mr. Semama, an IBA News correspondent, is a Tunisian-born French national who also has Israeli nationality.

Mr. Feller, who was born in

Jerusalem to American parents, also has dual nationality — American and Israeli. He serves as reporter and editor at the news department of the IBA's Kol Israel.

Street reaction to the presence of the two in Jordan was varied.

While some journalists maintained that it might help Israelis better understand Jordanian viewpoints through their own media, others said Israel was obviously seeking to advance its quest for normalisation of ties before arriving at a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Hardliners who oppose the peace process itself were outraged and found another avenue to vent their anger.

Mr. Semama and Mr. Feller arrived in Amman from Ankara on Monday, the day Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed their landmark agreement at the White House and one day before Israel and Jordan signed their agenda.

They refused to be interviewed by Jordan-based or Jordanian journalists saying they did not want to "embarrass, annoy or offend anyone" in Jordan.

They said they were trying to establish "contacts" for reports from Jordan and had requested interviews with officials.

There was no record of any official granting them interviews, however.

close touch with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I would say one half of the people are in favour (of the peace agreement), one third are against and the rest are undecided," said another official.

Some opinion polls have suggested the level of support may be higher, at around two thirds of the population.

— Palestinian leaders want the European Community to coordinate international aid to help the occupied territories become autonomous, a Belgian foreign ministry spokesman said Friday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Money but no lines

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS Corporation (TCC)'s annual revenues in the past fiscal year reached JD 115 million, JD70 million of which were net profits. This big financial achievement makes the TCC the second largest revenue collector for the government after the Customs Department. Yet, there is still a chronic shortage of telephone lines all over the country, especially in Amman.

One cannot overestimate the significance and the indispensable role of communication in any state striving to develop economically and socially. Jordan is a fast growing country on every conceivable level. Tourism, industrial development and overall economic progress are the hallmarks of the new Jordan. Without an adequate telephone service, there is simply no way the country can attain its objectives. Even though there is a broad agreement on the critical need for an expansion of the telephone utility, the crisis continues to plague Jordanians who must wait for months if not years before their businesses and establishments are able to hook to the never sufficient number of available lines.

According to the TCC there is now 5,000 applicants in west Amman alone waiting impatiently for telephone service. The number of applicants for the entire country currently stands at 160,000. Yet the last expansion project was completed in 1985, nearly nine years ago. The Ministry of Finance has been footdragging on the overdue five-year programme to provide an additional 250,000 new lines for the entire country. A tender for this project will be made public only at the end of this year. Meanwhile the country has had to do with interim improvisations that will not do.

The question now is why all this procrastination at a time when telephone service is so profitable to the national treasury and so urgently needed? Officials and others attribute the continuing malaise to weaknesses in the TCC organisation as well as to current laws and regulations pertaining to public corporations. We would like to go even further by suggesting that as long as the telephone service remains in governmental hands, there would continue to be a lack of action and preparedness for the future. There is a remedy which other countries have long discovered as the only permanent panacea to the problem: Privatisation.

There cannot be many states in the world where the telephone service is adequate when in the hands of government bureaucracy. In all countries where telephone companies are in private hands, their service is cheaper, more efficient and well-prepared to handle increasing demand.

Having said that, one has to stop for a moment and consider how sound a call will be if it is aimed at depriving the government of a sound revenue earner. Furthermore, there are dozens of other entities in the country which are white elephants for the government. Why not start with them?

But that would not solve our immediate problem with phones.

Our own experience clearly shows and proves that we face a problem. Our authorities have always been trying to catch up at a slow pace but never succeeded in staying ahead. When subscribers still wait in long lines and for endless hours trying to pay their telephone bills because of bureaucracy, one begins to appreciate the size of the crisis. Something will have to be done and done fast.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily discussed the position of the Palestinian refugees who have lived in camps since the occupation of their homeland in 1948 and said that they were frustrated by the deal between the PLO and Israel over autonomy rule. We must understand the position of the camp residents who have lived in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon since 1948 after losing their homes to the Israelis and who are not at all happy with the Gaza-Jericho deal or the autonomy rule for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Tareq Masarweh. These refugees who left their homes in Jaffa, Haifa, Lidda, Ramleh and other towns have been ignored by the PLO-Israeli deal, but they have not stopped hoping to go back, said the writer. Even the children of the 1948 refugee camp say they belong there, to their own Palestinian homeland, and they would do anything to return, added the writer. The new deal between the PLO and Israel does not give these people hope of return and so they are deeply frustrated as long as their homeland is not returned, continued Masarweh. The 1948 refugees do not shun unity with Jordan and the rest of the Arab World, but they insist that their rights be returned to them like the others; and they refused to receive compensation or be granted citizenship in the countries in which they are living now, and this includes the refugees living in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, he added. He said we cannot blame the 1948 refugees who dream of liberating the whole of Palestine from the river to the sea.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that Jordan has all the right to take appropriate measures to prevent an influx of Palestinians into the East Bank. Mohammad Daoudieh said that Jordan must demand guarantees that the Jordanian national identity will not in any way be encroached upon and there must be some strict measures at the entry points into the East Bank to stop the Zionists from mass pushing the Palestinians into Jordan.

Jordanian Perspective

Difficult as it is, it is time for decisions

A LANDMARK agreement has been signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a development unthinkable only three weeks ago, setting the stage, hopefully, for a course of events leading to a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

Now that the agreement is a reality and an overwhelming majority of world-nations has thrown its weight behind the deal, the only avenue ahead is to interact with the accord and ensure that it does indeed proceed in a direction that would address the genuine concerns of all parties involved. Needless to say, no solution could be found that would be acceptable to every one; that is the very nature of every regional conflict, not to mention the complexities of the conflict over the Holy Land.

By the same token, keeping in mind the various elements that compelled PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to seal their deal with a handshake at a glittering ceremony at the White House, under the patronage of American decisionmakers, it is imperative that total support be extended to both leaders to realise the objective of a peace that a majority of the people of the Middle East would accept.

Recent revelations indicate that one of the main cards used by the Israelis to convince Mr. Arafat to accept the limited Palestinian autonomy deal in secret negotiations in Oslo, Norway, was the Islamic fundamentalist strength in the occupied territories.

The PLO interlocutors at the negotiations were repeatedly told that Israeli intelligence reports had established that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, was surging in popularity at the expense of nationalist Palestinian groups represented by the PLO and Mr. Arafat would be better off accepting the autonomy deal now rather than losing out to Hamas if he insisted on prolonging the bargaining by insisting on bottom lines higher than what the Israelis were offering.

No less than three renowned Israeli professors took turns at conveying the message supported by what they described as the "political philosophy" based on realities on the ground in the occupied territories.

The three, Yair Hirschfeld, Ron Phundak and Dan Singer, and senior foreign ministry official Yuri Savir repeatedly pounded this message into the PLO brains that the Hamas factor became the backdrop to the entire scenario and every aspect of the deal had to be closely scrutinised against the possible threats that the fundamentalist group could pose to nationalist Palestinian factions.

Coming from such an "authoritative" source as Israeli intelligence, the PLO negotiators had no choice but to accept it on face value. It could also be said they were more prone to accepting the Israeli assessment than that of their own support groups in the occupied territories who might have a vested interest in portraying a postscript of own strength among the Palestinian constituents.

No doubt, it was a clear case of overkill, but then it had the Israeli-desired effect on Mr. Arafat as last week's White House ceremony proved out. It was a question of an already vulnerable leader of a liberation movement facing the possibility of marginalisation (as posed by the young turks in the peace negotiating team) succumbing to threats of deprivation of control on the ground.

On the other hand, the PLO appeared to have played into the hands of the Israelis by "revealing" that in past secret contacts with emissaries of Israeli right-wing groups the organisation had "justifiable grounds" to believe that they would also go along with a peace deal.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

PLO-Israeli deal — a step towards freedom for the Palestinian people

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The local Arabic press last week again focused attention on the prospects of peace, in light of the PLO-Israeli deal as well as Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the agreement. Also discussed were a host of domestic matters.

Muna Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dustour, pointed out that the PLO-Israeli deal is still ambiguous to many Arabs and Israelis. She said that while the PLO leaders say that the deal provides for the eventual creation of a Palestinian state, the Israelis contend that the creation of any Palestinian entity will pose a serious threat to the Jewish state.

We know that the Israelis have the upper hand in this affair and therefore they would be imposing their own interpretation of the PLO-Israeli deal in the proper time, she said. One indication of this, said the writer, is the repeated statements by Israeli leaders that not a single Jewish settlement will be removed as a result of the deal.

Salameh Ekour said that the PLO-Israeli deal provides for the creation of an economic and trade alliance between Israel and the Palestinian self-rule entity.

The columnist, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said this clearly means that the Palestinians would be playing a mediation role between the advanced Israeli industrial and commercial market and the Arab markets and that the Palestinian firms would benefit from the commission.

Issa Shueibi, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that although the PLO-Israeli deal was unjust and did not immediately respond to the national aspirations of the Palestinians, it served as a first step towards freedom for the Palestinian people.

He said the deal showed that the PLO leadership, which has lost all hope from the Arab World to help the Palestinians regain their lost lands, was determined to get recognition for itself from the enemy and step by step regain territory, which begins through self-rule in part of Palestine.

He said that the deal was bound to reestablish the Palestinian people's statehood and end the state of loss they have been living over the past

45 years.

Whether the deal between the PLO and Israel is supported or opposed by Jews or Arabs, there is no doubt that it will be applied simply because it is backed by the U.S., the sponsor of the peace process, said Youssef Bouran, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

He said that the way for the sole superpower to do things at will in the world was paved for by the downfall of the eastern bloc and the imposition of what is called the new world order.

He said that the time is ripe for dealing with the Middle East question following the destruction of the Iraqi war machinery and in order to pave the ground for continued oil flow to the West.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, believes that the self-rule for the Palestinians which, according to plan, would last for five years, would not last for more than three years.

He said that since the Israelis and the Palestinians now have direct, face to face talks, they would embark on discussions for the second stage in the third year of the self-rule.

In discussing Jordan's position vis-a-vis the PLO-Israeli deal, the writer said that just before the agreement was signed, the PLO was threatened politically and financially and was on the verge of collapse, while the Israelis were going ahead with plans to build settlements and evacuate the Palestinian homeland, driving out the Palestinian people.

He said that the PLO was right in taking this step and Jordan should now support it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the Jordanians and the Palestinians ought to work towards the establishment of a confederation between them. Saleh Qallab said that the two sides ought first to stimulate the work of their joint committees, to pave the ground for integration, before the next vital step can be taken.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described the Israeli-Jordanian signing of the common agenda

Here is a classic example of the edge that the Israelis, long used to the art of negotiations, enjoyed in their dealings with the PLO. For one thing, the PLO should have come up with an argument that the rightist Israeli groups, particularly the Likud led by Benjamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon, and extremist "Israeli nationalists" could pose a serious hurdle in the way of implementing what the Labour-led coalition was offering to the Palestinians. Such an approach would have strengthened the PLO hand in demanding that Mr. Rabin and his newfound ally and deputy Shimon Peres incorporate irreversible elements in the agreement against the backdrop of the possibility that the Israeli political scene may change and Likud could take over Labour at a later date and scuttle the accord.

All said and done, it is time that the Arabs and the Palestinians looked at their options in the immediate term.

On the one hand, every possible support should be extended to Mr. Arafat to outbid Hamas and other "rejectionist" groups in the struggle for the hearts and minds of the Palestinian people. However, such support should not come at the expense of the democratic and human rights of the people of the occupied territories. Nor should it imply a free hand to Mr. Arafat to deal with the opposition in the same manner he has been known to have adopted vis-a-vis dissident groups and individuals.

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that by all practical and technical purposes, the autonomy agreement does not automatically mean handing over the control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho to Mr. Arafat and his associates.

There have to be elections under neutral international observation for an elected Palestinian authority which will assume the task of administering self-rule in the occupied territories.

Although it appears that Mr. Arafat and his nominees would enjoy an edge over all others, by virtue of the fact that it was the PLO chairman who concluded the deal with the Israelis, a lot could happen from now until the polls that could overturn all predictions and herald unforeseen realities.

Granted, it is a very difficult ground for the Arabs to tread. But if the idea is to ensure that the Israel-PLO accord sets a wheel in motion towards the realisation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, then the difficulty is affordable.

On the other side of the divide, Mr. Rabin faces a tough test next month — municipal elections. The highly-politicised elections could easily be described as the litmus test for Israeli public opinion over the autonomy deal.

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Sharon and their associates are basing their strategy in the polls on exploiting what Israelis might see as "concessions" to the Palestinians in the agreement and the "dangers" that lurk in the accord in the form of paving the way for an independent Palestinian state.

Ironically, the Arabs, or at least those who support the Israel-PLO agreement and wish to see it succeed, find themselves in a situation where they have to extend indirect political support for Mr. Rabin, the man who led an army in war against the Arabs and who ordered the bones of Palestinian children broken.

It will be catastrophic for the whole peace process and the carefully nurtured scenario of the Israel-PLO accord leading to a chain of events and actions that take us to peace and stability in the Middle East if Mr. Netanyahu and his likes topple Mr. Rabin.

It is a clear choice between two evils, but then let us settle for the lesser one.

It is a very difficult decision. But then this is time for decisions, difficult or otherwise.



Communism's fall took too long, cost too much

By Richard Reeves

BERLIN — On Friday nights, Kurfürstendamm has the shabby and menacing look of New York's Times Square. There is something degrading about just walking past the cafes, a promenade punctuated by shell games set up on boxes, prostitutes, beggars and junkies in the doorways of the closed shops, and unwashed young men who are scary themselves in leather and spiky hair.

All of that seems normal, even boring, to an American, certainly to a New Yorker. But the gaping country cousins coming to see Berlin, wide eyed and probably frightened by such assertive decadence, are different from any I have seen on Broadway. They could be from another planet: East Germans, men with their plastic suitcases, young girls wearing Bermuda shorts and nylons, their mothers in wool coats from the 1940s on a hot summer night — their weekend best, I guess.

They blink in the light, like released prisoners. And, more than three years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, that is what they still are, hostages of the cold war, prisoners of communism for more than 40 years. It is painful just to look at what the Russians did to these people — and to themselves.

A trip through Eastern Europe is still a visit to a circle of hell; a tour made worse by the faded charm of cities like Prague and Budapest and the decayed beauty of Potsdam. Broken buildings and broken people. Young people with more normal haircuts give the places some energy, but they are still only splashes of the bright against the grey and the grime.

To see the works of communism, then or now, is to wonder how it survived for so long. There are few Americans, I think, who saw Moscow in the bad old days who did not know within an hour that these people, the Russians, were not going to beat America at anything, much less take over the world.

One of the tragedies of the cold war — a principal reason is lasted so long — was that the Americans leading the fight vastly overrated the enemy because they had never seen his homeland. For me, there were a series of shocks over the years during conversations in Washington when I realised I was talking to people who had never seen the thing they were so afraid of. That was especially true during the Reagan years; those people had no idea how evil the "evil empire" really was — and how pathetic. The president, Richard Perle of the Defence Department and William Gates of the CIA ranted and plotted against a colossus that existed only in their overheated imaginations.

Not that it began with them. If other Americans and America's allies had not been so foolish, communism, I think, would have collapsed 20 years earlier than it did — perhaps in the late 1960s or early 1970s — and we Americans would not have drained away our national treasury fighting shadows in the dark.

The beginning of the endgame might have come in 1956 when the Hungarians revolted against the Russian occupation, only to be isolated when Britain, France and Israel jointly invaded Egypt to try to keep control of the Suez Canal. It might have come in 1968 when the Czechs revolted against the Red Army, but by then America was busily destroying its own political credibility in Vietnam.

The dark side of final victory was that it took so long and so diminished life on both sides.

John F. Kennedy, whose trumpeting of a phony Russian superiority (the "missile gap") helped prop up the Soviet Union for years, was told by two very different old men that all the United States had to do to win the cold war was stand firm. His father, the dread Joseph P. Kennedy, and Charles de Gaulle told him the same thing: Communism was fundamentally unworkable and would fall of its own weight.

De Gaulle avoided the word

"Soviet." Communism, ideology are frauds, the French president told the American in 1961, knowing of course how desperately serious Americans were about such things. Nationalism, he said, was the problem.

"Russia" is real, de Gaulle said. Russia fought only after Napoleon invaded, after Hitler invaded. Russia would never be foolish enough to take on the world. Russia is frightened. Russia is bluffing. "Tenir bon," he repeated. "Tenir le coup. Hold on, be firm, be strong. Wait them out. This is the most useful service you can render the whole world."

"To see the works of communism, then or now, is to wonder how it survived for so long. There are few Americans, I think, who saw Moscow in the bad old days who did not know within an hour that these people, the Russians, were not going to beat America at anything much less take over the world. One of the tragedies of the cold war — a principal reason it lasted so long — was that the Americans leading the fight vastly overrated the enemy because they had never seen his homeland."

President Kennedy had his own ideas, American ideas that we could somehow control events in lands far away. Hubris. It is an American conceit that we can fundamentally change lands like Vietnam or Iraq or Yugoslavia, places peopled by nationalists of various sorts who were there centuries before we noticed and will be there centuries after we have forgotten.

The new world order proclaimed by George Bush only a couple of years ago is dead now — really it was just the old American idea recycled. Woodrow Wilson revisited.

Wilson, Kennedy, Reagan and Bush, and now Bill Clinton — America has no true foreign policy because, as we Americans were unable to see communism for what it was, we are unwilling to look at the world as it really is. We are still unwilling to take the pledge to change what we can, accept what we can't change, and pray for the wisdom to know the difference this time around — International Herald Tribune.

U.S. Congress adopts resolution welcoming Israel-PLO agreement

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Senate and the House of Representatives have unanimously approved a "concurrent resolution" expressing the sense of the Congress in welcoming the historic opportunity for achieving peace in the Middle East.

The resolution was offered Wednesday in the Senate by majority leader George Mitchell and minority leader Robert Dole, and in the House by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Lee Hamilton.

According to Mr. Mitchell, the resolution expresses "strong support" for the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the hope "that this will serve as an historic opportunity to move towards a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The resolution "welcomes the decisions of the Israeli government and the PLO to meet as peace-makers rather than enemies," Mr. Dole said.

Mr. Hamilton noted that "much hard work" will be required to bring the peace to fruition, and that "it is vitally important the Congress go on record in support of the agreement signed by Israel and the

PLO."

Following is the text of the concurrent resolution:

EXPRESSING the sense of the Congress concerning the historic opportunity for peace in the Middle East,

WHEREAS the conflict in the Middle East has caused untold suffering for many decades, WHEREAS the people of the state of Israel have the right to live in peace within secure and recognised borders, WHEREAS SUCCESSIVE administrations of the U.S. government have worked diligently to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

WHEREAS under the leadership of President Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Sadat signed the historic Camp David accords of 1978; WHEREAS under the strong leadership of President Bush, a dialogue among the parties to the Middle East conflict was initiated at Madrid in October 1991;

WHEREAS this dialogue was continued through the strong and constructive efforts of the Clinton administration; WHEREAS the government of

Norway, through its foreign minister, played an instrumental role in facilitating the negotiations that led to the signing of the declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation;

WHEREAS the Palestine Liberation Organisation has recognised the right of the state of Israel to exist in peace and security, has announced that it renounces terrorism and other acts of violence, and has agreed to amend its charter to delete all references to the destruction of the state of Israel; WHEREAS the state of Israel has recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the representative of the Palestinian people;

WHEREAS Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have agreed to a declaration of principles concerning an interim period of limited autonomy for Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza; and

WHEREAS many difficult issues remain to be resolved in future discussions: Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the Congress —

(1) Supports the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and hopes it will serve as an historic opportunity to move towards a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;

(2) Applauds the efforts of the Clinton and Bush administrations to facilitate these developments; (3) Welcomes the decision of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to recognise the state of Israel, to renounce terrorism and other acts of violence, and to accept the path of peaceful coexistence;

(4) Welcomes the decision of the state of Israel to enter into this declaration of principles and reaffirms its commitment to helping assure the continued security of the state of Israel;

(5) Commends all those persons who have worked diligently to achieve these accords; (6) Encourages all parties to the Middle East peace process to continue to work vigorously in the pursuit of a comprehensive peace for the region; and,

(7) Endorses continuing U.S. engagement in the peace process, and is committed to supporting efforts to make this agreement a success.

Let's get straight to the meaning!

Following is a translation of an article written by Muna Saudi in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i on Sept. 11, 1993.

Forget about details — let's get straight to the meaning...

How many square kilometres are we going to get?

Who is going to rule? Who is going to return? Who is going to be against whom?

Is it Jericho and Gaza only, or is it the beginning of the road?

Have we lost or won?

Is this peace going to leave us destitute or rich?

Forget about details — let's get straight to the meaning...

We have lost all wars. One by one; we did not wage them and we did not fight, but wars would land on our heads and leave us

destruction or the land would be

pulled from under our feet!

From the 1948 war until the Gulf war, occupation, destruction, refugees, people in flight, exiles, disasters, setbacks, scorched earth, napalm, nuclear

bombs, chemical weapons, the breaking of bones and the breaking of souls, bringing down

houses on their owners' heads, the Sabra and Shateela massacres, prisons, children being killed daily... and martyrs... martyrs forgotten except by their mothers and their children...

The truth is the land does not die. The truth is the dream does not die and that which is named Palestine will keep the name of Palestine...

Forget about details — let's get straight to the meaning...

An attribute of the Arabs is that they are poets and from them came all the prophets.

Forget about details — let's get straight to the meaning...

Israel tried in the past fifty

years to obliterate the Palestinian people and deny their existence; but here it is, admitting that the Palestinian people exists and that the land is their land and that it is withdrawing as an occupying force. The Zionist dream was that Palestine should be Jewish, but here are the Palestinians shredding the Zionist idea...

Forget about details — let's get straight to the meaning...

We are in a new, historic phase. And if the peace agreement has hit us like lightning, mixing our feelings, thoughts and stance, then we must interpret this agreement as a practical measure to resolve many and intertwined complications; and believe that it is the beginning of hope, the beginning of struggle and the beginning of effort.

Love, contemplation — themes in Iraqi artist's paintings

By Najwa Kafaya

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Noori Al Rawi's exhibition at the Baladna Art Gallery is characterised by an assortment of styles and techniques to suit many tastes and meet various artistic perceptions with no monotony in the presentation.

Although Mr. Rawi tends to use dark colours in general as "dark colours provide a neutral background and do not surround the theme of the painting," the beautiful colour mixage, when used, is strong and constructive whether in the clearly expressive illustrations or in the abstract impressions. In some of the paint-

ings, even in the smallest painting.

To him, his work is a diverse selection of visions, whereby "each painting is the child of its own moment, a moment characterised by specific experience in a certain circumstance." As circumstances and experiences are always changing, his work keeps on changing and as soon as "an artist runs out of new experiences, he is dead."

Mr. Rawi is also an author and a poet and someone who treasures music and considers it as a source of illumination. This is why his paintings, to him, are "a collection of poetical verses which have their own music." The serene village from Upper

Euphrates which is portrayed in more than one of his paintings, is not just any village. It is a shadow of the village in which he was born and where he spent the best years of his life. The water mills situated by its smoothly running river are a part of this beautiful memory which first stirred his poetry and artistic talents. This village is sunk in his imagination and crystallised into a dream rather than a mere landscape, through long processes of contemplation and meditation. The shadow of the tranquil village represents the security of the mystic old. The sudden stroke of orange red, disturbing the serenity of the overwhelmingly deep night surrounding it, represents

the whimsical wake of a mirage trying to capture a bitter yet beautiful memory. The silence in his paintings stirs much life and triggers many impressions.

Noori Al Rawi is one of the founders of the contemporary Iraqi art movement. He is a founding member of the Iraqi Union which is a member of the International Art Critics League.

He also is one of the main founders of the Baghdad Museum of Art. He presented an art programme on the Iraqi TV for a period of 25 years, and participated in numerous local as well as international art exhibitions.

His current exhibition will last until Sept. 23, 1993.



Voices of Silence (left) and Wings of Silence — two works by Noori Al Rawi

Major and Thatcher head cast list at London's 'Iraqgate' show

By Robert Woodward
Reporter

LONDON — Forget Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest West End musical and the opera at Covent Garden.

The best show in London this winter will be staged in a building opposite Buckingham Palace where the "Iraqgate" inquiry will try to discover if the government knowingly broke its own rules and sold arms to Baghdad before the Gulf war.

Prime Minister John Major and his predecessor Lady Thatcher head the cast list for the official probe by Lord Justice Scott, who has already caused a stir in Whitehall with his tough questioning of civil service witnesses. Several former and current ministers, including Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, will face a grilling from Mr. Scott who has almost total, and certainly unprecedented, freedom to look into how decisions are made in the upper echelons of government.

The inquiry was set up by Mr. Major in November 1992 after three executives of an engineering firm were cleared of illegally exporting machine tools to Iraq before the 1991 Gulf war.

The trial raised the question of whether the government had connived in arms sales and had been prepared to allow innocent men to be jailed rather than have its duplicity exposed.

It is this latter point, involving the potentially explosive concept of dishonourable behaviour by ministers, which could cause the government the most embarrassment before oral evidence to Mr. Scott winds up in late January.

A senior Foreign Office aide told Mr. Scott in June that British officials advised ministers to allow machine-tool exports to Iraq in the 1980s knowing they



Margaret Thatcher

would be used to make munitions.

The inquiry, which started in May, took a two-month break in July. It resumes on September 13 with evidence from David Gore-Booth, Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

A week later Mr. Scott will see his first cabinet member, William Waldegrave, minister of science and public service, who faces an uncomfortable few hours in the chair which looks out on to the side wall of Queen Elizabeth's official residence.

Witnesses are not under oath and have immunity from prosecution. Mr. Scott hopes to issue his report in early 1994.

Mr. Waldegrave is leading Mr. Major's crusade for open government in Britain. But a former civil servant told the inquiry in July that Mr. Waldegrave, when a minister in the Foreign Office, had lied to parliament in 1989 to conceal a relaxation of guidelines on arms sales to Iraq.

The witness, Mark Higson, said Foreign Office and trade ministers relaxed these guidelines after the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988 to win the "big prize" of



John Major

lucrative arms deals with Baghdad.

This revelation was the juiciest so far from the backroom boys of the civil service who, in British tradition, dislike having the machinations of government revealed to the public.

True to popular conception, witnesses from the upper reaches of the foreign office are often middle-class men educated at Oxford or Cambridge university who appear to be out of step with the times, talking of doing "prep" when looking into something and referring to radio as "the wireless".

Witness after witness has shown how haphazard the working practices in high-profile, over-worked departments such as the foreign office can be.

The principle of "need-to-know" is paramount, meaning one section of a ministry is often unaware of how another was treating sensitive areas of policy.

Export licences to Iraq for equipment that could be used for both military or civilian use were often passed "on the nod" with little discussion, officials said.

Supposedly strict guidelines on arms exports were often, overridden by other concerns, such as how employment would be affected by the rejection of export licences.

Changes of policy were deliberately hidden to avoid a public outcry. Officials also chose to ignore overwhelming evidence that arms and equipment shipped to Jordan was ending up in Iraq.

The inquiry was told the phrase "economical with the truth" summed up the attitude of Whitehall when dealing with members of parliament or the public. Mr. Scott has become increasingly angry at what he called the government's "order the table" antics.

In the early days of the inquiry Mr. Scott was content to allow his assistant, Presley Baxendale, to conduct the questioning. Mr. Baxendale's detailed probing often exasperates witnesses unused to scrutiny, but it is Mr. Scott whom they fear now.

Some witnesses have complained to their superiors that the High Court judge, a keen hunter, has overstepped the mark in pursuit of the truth.

Mr. Scott does not bother to hide his exasperation if he believes a witness is being less than truthful and has more than once ruthlessly deflated a witness's self-importance.

Mr. Scott is unrepentant and believes the inquiry will root out the truth, whatever the cost to the government.

"If you are going to have an inquiry, you had better have a thorough one and put up with the price that has to be paid for that thoroughness," he told the Financial Times in July.

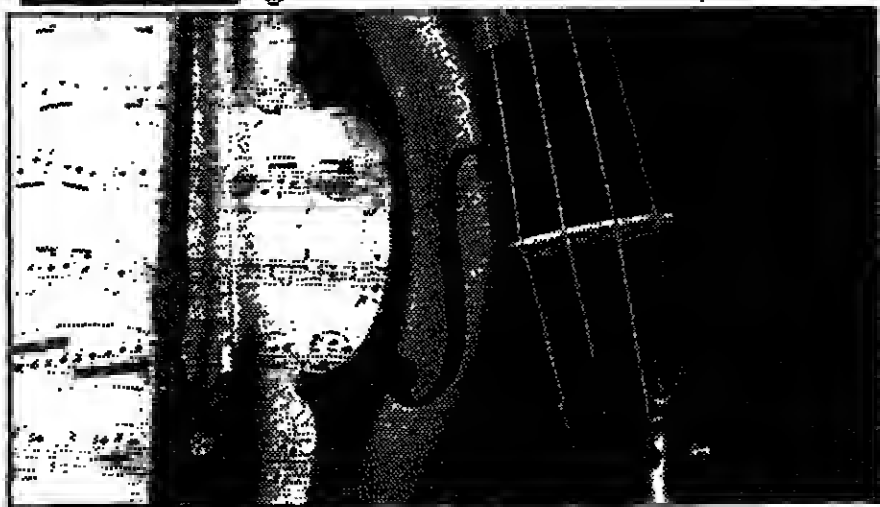
Mr. Major is due to appear at the inquiry in early January and Mrs. Thatcher in December.

ings the dark colours fade away and at one stage explode forming the focal point of the painting.

His paintings are saturated with love. The "red flame of love" appears frequently sometimes in the "garden of existence", other times in an abstract vision and yet other times within the vivid symbols of life itself. However, a couple of his paintings are equally impressive in spite of their being mere black and white China ink illustrations.

When it comes to the composition of the painting, he uses symbolic characters and calligraphy and employs diverse shapes and figures systematically using different techniques like collage, pasting and graphics and acrylic, gouache, water colours and airbrush, yet maintains harmony, rhythm, equilibrium and trans-

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CENTRO CULTURAL ESPAÑOL
المركز الثقافي الإسباني

Announces

The beginning of a three-month fall course of Spanish language.

Registration starts on September 20 and will run through September 25, 1993

The course starts on Sept. 27, 1993, for the levels basic through 8.

Class days: evenings of Saturday, Monday, Wednesday.

Morning classes are also offered.

The centre also offers scholarships in Spain for improving language skills and for university studies for those proficient in Spanish.

For further information, pls. contact tel: 624649-610658

The Spanish Cultural Centre-Jabal Amman - 3rd Circle - Daily, except Friday and Sunday 8:00-1:00 - 3:00-8:00

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 17

Drawing of September 17, 1993

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 67951 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120 67952 67961 67051 68951 77951 67950 67941 67851 66951 57951
Holder of ticket No. 95981 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each wins JD 70 95982 95991 95081 96981 05981 95980 95971 95881 94981 85981
Holder of ticket No. 70841 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 70842 70851 70941 71841 80841 70840 70831 70741 79841 60841
Holder of ticket No. 94259 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each wins JD 20 94250 94269 94359 95259 04259 94258 94249 94159 93259 84259
Holder of ticket No. 56575 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15 56576 56585 56675 57575 46575 56574 56565 56475 55575 46575
Holder of ticket No. 90716 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 90717 90726 90816 91716 00716 90715 90706 90616 99716 80716
Holder of ticket No. 78177 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 78178 78187 78277 79177 88177 78176 78167 78077 77177 68177
Holder of ticket No. 88767 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 88768 88777 88867 89767 98767 88766 88757 88667 87767 78767

Ticket numbers **58577 26762 87616 54884** Win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers **42146 32652 61948** Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

7810 4768 6936 Win JD 50 each	6996 2979 7309 Win JD 20 each 5339 0941
0374 5409 5995 Win JD 10 each	820 899 082 274 Win JD 5 each 9052 6003
71 Win JD 3 each	10,000 ticket ending with 7 Win JD 2 each

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

50 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **856 359 153 155 327** Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 16 of September 2, 1993

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Haleh Baidar Zarqa, Electrician Ref: 414 010,000	Muhammad Qasbi Zarqa, Employee Ref: 414 010,000	Hassan Qasbi Zarqa, Employee Ref: 414 010,000	Imad Al Hail Amman, Student Ref: 124 010,000	Muhammad Saleh Amman, Student Ref: 124 010,000	Muhammad Al Umm Zarqa, Accountant Ref: 124 010,000	Samir Younis Amman, Student Ref: 124 010,000	Samir Younis Amman, Student Ref: 124 010,000	Samir Younis Amman, Student Ref: 124 010,000	Samir Younis Amman, Student Ref: 124 010,000

Next Draw takes place on **October 2, 1993**

First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

Future Palestine housing tsars map future in Paris

PARIS (R) — Planners investigating housing policies for a future Palestinian state say vast construction programmes and possible mass shifts of population might change the face of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO-sponsored Palestinian team spoke late Wednesday from Paris of still hazy projects which could entail moving half of the population of the teeming Gaza Strip to the West Bank where half a million refugees now in Arab states would also resettle.

"The only thing which is clear is that we need 40,000 to 50,000 flats, especially in the Gaza Strip, in the next two or three years," said Mohammad Abbas Abdulhaq of the East Jerusalem-based Palestinian Higher Council for Housing.

Created by the PLO's shadow administration in Israeli-occupied areas, it is one of several bodies serving as nuclei for future Palestinian ministers, said Leila Chahid, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in France.

"The European Community and other international sources have pledged \$200 million for our construction projects just for the next two years," said another council member, Dr. Mazem Rasekh, Dean of engineering at Nabulus An Najah University.

"For obvious reasons, we want to start building new, low-cost housing as soon as possible in the Gaza Strip and Jericho," Dr. Rasekh said. He referred to areas Israel is to turn later for Palestinian self-government in coming months according to the PLO-Israel peace accord signed in Washington this week.

Mr. Abdulhaq and Dr. Rasekh were among 13 council members, mostly engineers, architects and administrators speaking to reporters after a month-long visit to France to study social housing projects and meet local planners.

"We left a month ago, before any idea of an accord was known, and returning with huge hope to a different world," Dr. Rasekh said.

The council members, speaking at a euphoric reception at the PLO mission to France, said studies showed:

— Half a million Palestinian refugees from several million in Arab states would settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the five years after establishment of a Palestinian entity. Cost of resettlement: \$4 billion.

— Most would come from Jordan, Lebanon and Syria within two years after establishment of an entity or state.

— All 600,000 refugees in the Gaza Strip, where the total population is around 800,000, needed new housing and the camps they live in should disappear within 10 to 20 years.

— Studies showed the Gaza Strip could be economically capable if its population was cut by half to 400,000 with the others settling in new housing in the West Bank.

"These are all extremely emotional issues... but it is clear people tend to move where they find jobs," said Dr. Rasekh. "But West Bank or Gaza Strip, it is all Palestine," he said.

Several planners expressed worries about aid pledges being really carried out. "America and Europe created our problem by bringing in the Jews so they should pay," said Mr. Abdulhaq. The planners said the main lesson they learned in France was to avoid building blocks of high-rise flats.

"We will build four or five stories high with two flats to each stairwell. As soon as we can, we would like to reduce that to two stories or semi-detached. Arabs do not mind living in small flats but do not like to live in clusters," said Dr. Rasekh.

IMF cautions developing countries on capital inflows

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned developing countries that vast capital inflows from abroad posed risks but said that they could be reduced by policies to control economic overheating.

With industrial country interest rates at very low levels and their economies in a period of intense struggle, capital has been pouring into the developing world in search of higher returns.

"We don't believe that the dangers posed by the capital inflows are in any sense insurmountable," an official said. "It's rather a warning flag that we're raising to highlight that they have the potential at least to cause problems for domestic macroeconomic policies."

Officials met with reporters to discuss the global lending institution's annual report.

Looking at the continued interest on the part of investors for greater financial returns than those seemingly available in the more traditional markets in industrial countries, the report saw increased risk of inflation and runaway spending in developing countries.

"In these countries, fiscal policy might need to be tightened to

make room for higher investment, and tighter monetary policies may be warranted to contain inflationary pressures and achieve sustainable growth," the report said.

The IMF said the search for investments came at a time when trade policy developments among industrial countries is being overshadowed by continued uncertainty about the Uruguay trade round, now expected to be completed by Dec. 13.

Trade relations among these countries have been characterised by recurrent tensions against a backdrop of high unemployment, built-in impediments to growth, and budget and trade imbalances.

"Frictions have increased in several sectors that continue to be insulated from foreign competition through trade restrictions, subsidies and managed trade agreements," the report said.

Fund lending activity, described as being in a normal cyclical pattern, is expected to be strong in the period ahead as a large number of countries seek assistance, the officials said.

The IMF had some 23 new financial arrangements with its member-countries in the year ended April 30 but is expected to exceed this number in the current

fiscal year. It approved 29 financial arrangements in the prior year.

"We do have a large number of negotiations underway now so that it is expected that the level of lending in the period ahead, under standby and extended arrangements, is again going to rise rather sharply," an official said, adding: "The demand on fund resources is very — it remains very high."

The officials said the amount of arrears on repayments had declined for the first time in a decade, primarily because Peru was able to get current on its loans.

Moreover, it was expected that Vietnam would be able to become current on its outstanding loans in the very near future, further reducing the amount of IMF loans in arrears, an official said.

The IMF expects world economic growth to pick up modestly next year after being held back in 1993 by the poor performance of industrial nations.

In a new outlook that will be released next week, the IMF forecasts that the world economy will expand by 3.2 per cent next year after rising by 2.1 per cent

1993, sources said.

The advance will be led by an economic turnaround in recession-ridden Europe and Japan, but the rebound will be modest because of the need for many industrial countries to cut back on their bulging budget deficits, they said.

Industrial country growth is projected to increase to 2.3 per cent next year from 1.1 per cent in 1994, according to the new IMF Outlook.

The new forecast, which may still undergo some last-minute fine-tuning before final publication, foresees U.S. growth picking up to 2.7 per cent next from 2.4 per cent in 1993.

Monetary sources said that growth in the United States is likely to be held back somewhat in 1994 by the tax increases contained in President Bill Clinton's plan to slash the budget deficit.

Such short-term pain, though, is necessary to achieve the long-term gain that will come from putting America's finances in better shape. The IMF believes that further cuts in the deficit will eventually be needed to stem government red ink.

After growing by what for it is a recessionary 0.5 per cent this

year, the Japanese economy is expected to pick up steam next year and expand by 2.2 per cent, the sources said.

After contracting by an average 0.3 per cent this year, the economies of the European Community are forecast to expand by 1.6 per cent in 1994 as the gradual interest rate cuts of recent months start to have a positive impact on growth, sources said.

Further rate cuts are needed to boost confidence and spur growth, they added.

Much of the constraint on monetary policy from Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) has been removed by the recent decision to allow currencies to move more widely, giving countries with low inflation the leeway to reduce rates more rapidly.

The IMF expects both the German and French economies to turn around next year, the sources said. Germany's economy is forecast to expand by 1.2 per cent next year after contracting by 1.6 per cent in 1993, while France's is projected to grow by one per cent in 1994 after shrinking 1.3 per cent this year.

Economic growth in Britain and Italy is also expected to pick up next year — to 2.8 per cent

and 1.7 per cent, respectively, from 1.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent in 1993.

The IMF expects Canada to be the star performer among the world's seven leading industrial nations in coming months — growing by 2.6 per cent this year and 3.8 per cent next.

But the real star performers are in the developing world, where countries that have taken tough action to put their economies in better shape have started to reap the benefits.

The IMF expects developing nations to grow by 5.8 per cent this year and 5.4 per cent next.

Even the so-called countries in transition that were members of the former communist bloc should do relatively better in 1994. After contracting by an average of two per cent this year, the economies of eastern Europe are forecast to expand by 1.7 per cent next year.

Russia and the other former Soviet republics are expected to suffer further declines in output next year, although the drop won't be nearly as steep. Their economies are expected to shrink by only 2.4 per cent next year after contracting by 13.1 per cent in 1993, they said.

Daimler-Benz plans to cut 40,000 jobs

STUTTGART, Germany (AFP) — The Daimler-Benz Group, revealing a loss of 946 million marks (\$593 million) in the first half of 1993 against 965 million marks profit for the same period last year, said Friday it planned to shed 40,000 jobs this year and next.

The net loss emerged on the basis of new accounting standards required for listing of the group's shares on the New York Stock Exchange on Oct. 5. This will make Daimler-Benz the first German company with a U.S. quotation.

Chairman Edzard Reuter said jobs would be lost "in almost all sectors of the group" as part of a rationalisation programme to save eight billion marks (\$5 billion) by 1997. "The current difficult economic situation forces us to introduce some solutions earlier than planned," he said.

On June 30, the company employed 365,027 people compared with 389,370 at the end of June 1992.

Most of the jobs will go in Germany itself, which accounts for nearly 294,000 of the total. Daimler-Benz said that in the three years 1992-1994, it expected to reduce its workforce in Germany by 35,000, or 20 per cent.

Mr. Reuter said that there would be compulsory redundancies, though the planned number of these would be "relatively small" compared to the coming 12 months, he added, however, that it would be tough to meet the government's official forecast of 3.3 per cent growth in the year to March 1994.

Private-sector analysts were even less optimistic.

Japan economic package aims at long-term reform

TOKYO (R) — A six trillion yen (\$57 billion) economic stimulus package unveiled Thursday disappointed those seeking a quick fix for Japan's ailing economy but some economists said the broad agenda outlined was the right one.

"The difference with this package, perhaps, is the sense that it is more forward-looking," said Paul Summerville, head of Asian research for Lehman Brothers in Tokyo. "It's really part of a programme for the next century." Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition government compiled the package — the fourth in the past 18 months — to help end a prolonged slump.

"We will quickly implement the package to wipe out uncertainty and ensure economic recovery," Mr. Hosokawa told a news conference.

Mr. Hosokawa, who took over in August from the long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party, had been under heavy pressure at home and abroad to kick-start an economy that now looks in danger of contracting in the year ending March 1994.

Washington and other trading partners want Japan to recover so it can import more and cut its growing trade surplus.

Economic Planning Agency Minister Maeno Kubota told reporters the package would probably push up gross national product (GNP) by 1.3 percentage points over the coming 12 months. She added, however, that it would be tough to meet the government's official forecast of 3.3 per cent growth in the year to March 1994.

Private-sector analysts were even less optimistic.

"This will not have an immediate impact on the economy," said Yukikazu Matsumoto, a general manager at Nikko Securities Investment Trust and Management Co. "There is additional need for an official discount rate cut and income tax cuts."

Financial markets, many economists and U.S. officials in Washington were disappointed with the package even before it was announced, mainly because of its anticipated failure to increase the already income tax cuts sought by businessmen.

The business community still wants income tax cuts of about five trillion yen (\$47.6 billion) to stimulate consumer spending, as well as a cut in the Bank of Japan's official discount rate, already at a historic low of 2.5 per cent.

The finance ministry, worried about slumping revenues and hostile to deficit financing, has resisted the calls. The package instead called on a tax panel, due to submit recommendations by mid-April, to discuss overall tax reform.

Share prices slid in advance of the package's announcement, with the Nikkei share average ending down 445.64 points, or 2.13 per cent, at 20,502.15.

The dollar plunged more than one yen after U.S. officials said Wednesday they were unlikely to be satisfied with the package.

Some economists said Mr. Hosokawa had erred in trying to combine structural reform with macroeconomic measures needed now for economic pump-priming. Others said Mr. Hosokawa was on the right track in stressing deregulation as the long-term way to fostering new businesses,

increasing competition and improving market access.

The package includes the elimination or easing of various government regulations. Future steps include a review of the anti-monopoly law to encourage competition.

It also urges companies to pass on to consumers benefits of the stronger yen and lower import costs. For instance, electricity charges will be cut for 11 months from November totalling about 230 billion yen (\$2.19 billion), and gas charges will also be cut for the same period totalling some 35 billion yen (\$333 million).

Mr. Hosokawa plans to spend one trillion yen (\$9.5 billion) to improve "social infrastructure" such as community education by schools and better facilities for the disabled.

The plan envisages additional public works projects by regional governments totalling 500 billion yen (\$4.76 billion) and a total of 300 billion yen (\$2.85 billion) in advance purchases of land for such projects.

Some 450 billion yen (\$4.28 billion) will be spent on measures to restore farmland damaged by the long rainy summer and areas hit by natural disasters.

The package also calls for an added 2.9 trillion yen (\$27.6 billion) in cheap government loans to promote housebuilding and renovation in this fiscal year.

Companies undergoing streamlining that could help cut retail costs will be given tax breaks and a further one trillion yen (\$9.5 billion) will go towards cheap government loans to help small firms.

Pakistan gets loans from IMF, World Bank

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced Thursday an offer of \$377 million in loans to Pakistan over the next 12 months. The money would support changes in economic policy recently announced by Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi.

"Progress has been made in liberalising the exchange and trade systems as well as domestic and foreign investment activities,

reforming the financial sector, initiating a wide-ranging privatisation programme and opening up areas of the economy previously reserved for the public sector," said the fund in announcing the loans.

Like similar "standby credits" from the fund, disbursement of these loans can be stopped if the fund finds that Pakistan has failed to meet agreed conditions.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Although there are no exact aspects today you can benefit by analysing and studying all that is practical, efficient and worthwhile. Avoid those who want your time but offer little in return. Just say you are busy.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have early difficulty in getting another person to do as you wish but this soon lifts and you find it possible to accomplish and receive a great deal.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind concerning your attainment needs care at breakfast after which you will be able to devise a new plan of action to succeed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An older person or condition gives you some slack early but then you are able to get into whatever service you wish to render to others very well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever means a great deal to you in the outside world does not work as you wish until you get into the middle of the day when conditions open up.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A pleasure activity is put off early for awhile but stick to doing it and soon you find you are having a great time, tonight keep away from dull chores.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take a trip to gain more wisdom and study in writings and

you get some excellent results while trying to rouse torpid people for fun jaunt is difficult.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Getting an early start is just filled with too many obstacles so go at slow pace and conditions happen more to your liking, tonight look into a money problem.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever delays occur where property or money matters are concerned eventually work out well for you but don't get in a harsh argument tonight with a companion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have many good ideas for your personal growth and expansion so make notation so you will remember them but avoid financial tensions.

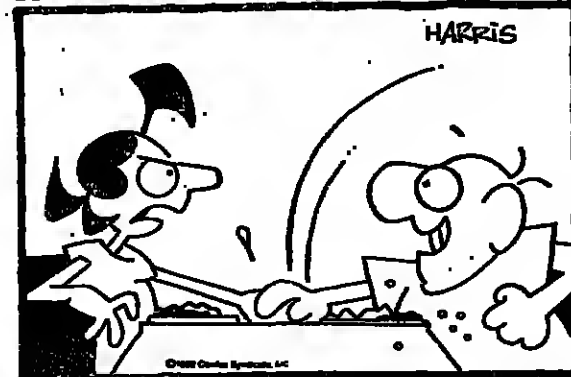
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Spend as much time at home as possible making new arrangements that will improve conditions there after which defuse the anger of a vexed friend.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mind is like lightning today after a brief morning respite and you can get into whatever faces you and solve wisely but tonight avoid one with a bitter beef.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Keep thinking early and you discover a new way to make your worldly and personal dreams come true, then go after them, but tonight sidestep a demanding pal.

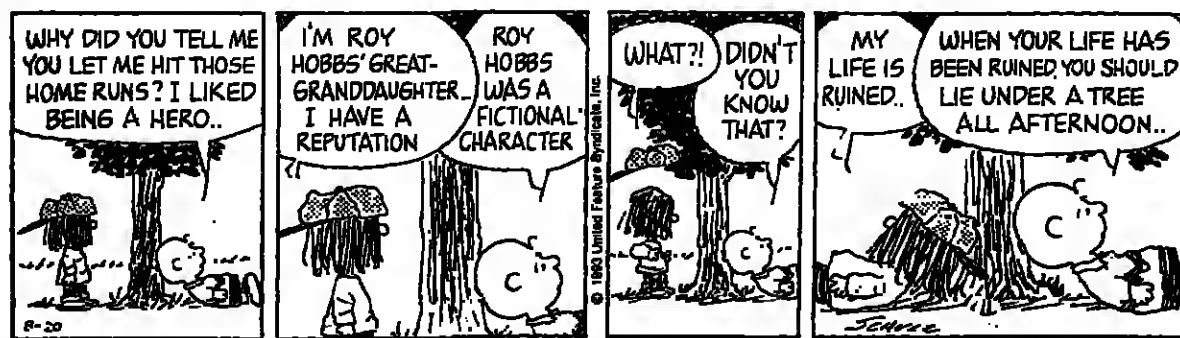
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I only wanted some romantic hand-holding! I wasn't trying to arm wrestle you for the last pork chop!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp

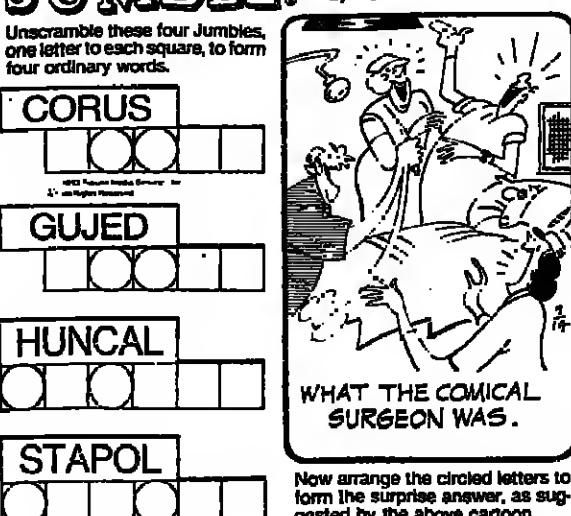


Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



Print answer here: AN

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRIPE PAPER ADVICE OECENT Answer: How hair that was parted yesterday may appear today — DEPARTED

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

1. Pickup
2. Chupach
3. Rather
4. Muslim deity
5. Sun satellite
6. Fishy cash
7. 1994 Olympic site
8. Backing
9. Vagrant
10. Uprights
11. Suit settlers
12. Films
13. Moves slowly
14. Those beyond help
15. Cook quickly
16. — above (superior)
17. Tail
18. Exert influence on
19. Get-up-and-go
20. Amusement show worker
21. Gaffer Stewart
22. Repeat
23. Controlling company
24. Post's England
25. Earnings
26. Cane
27. — Manner
28. Paean kn
29. "Becket" star
30. Not either
31. Pointless
32. Anesthetic
33. Many mos.
34. Nebulous
35. Pacific island group
36. Down
37. Lender of "Barney Miller"
38. Yalie
39. Afflicted
40. Most piquant
41. Healing means
42. Smiles
43. Incline
44. Forth
45. Hurry
46. Dry up
47. TV anchor
48. So long, in Tjans
49. Bends the head
50. Artist's frame
51. 22 Publicize
52. Suspension of hostilities
53. Wholesale, sometimes
54. Dreamy in nature
55. Snake
56. Infantryman
57. Nonvenereal element
58. Carcater
59. De opposite
60. Vitamin A source
61. Florida city
62. Martyred saint
63. Mouth parts
64. Horst
65. — Alto, Cal.
66. Passion
67. Begs
68. Small horse
69. 45 Transm
70. Sailor
71. Electrical unit
72. Zodiac sign
73. 51 Ryan stat

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. PICKUP, 2. CHUPACH, 3. RATHER, 4. MUHAMMAD, 5. SUN, 6. FISHY, 7. SEATTLE, 8. BACKING, 9. VAGRANT, 10. UPRIGHTS, 11. SUIT, 12. FILMS, 13. MOVES SLOWLY, 14. THOSE BEYOND HELP, 15. COOK QUICKLY, 16. ABOVE, 17. TAIL, 18. EXERT INFLUENCE ON, 19. GET-UP-AND-GO, 20. AMUSEMENT SHOW WORKER, 21. Gaffer Stewart, 22. REPEAT, 23. CONTROLLING COMPANY, 24. POST'S ENGLAND, 25. EARNINGS, 26. CANE, 27. MANNER, 28. PAEAN KN, 29. "BECKET" STAR, 30. NOT EITHER, 31. POINTLESS, 32. ANESTHETIC, 33. MANY MOS., 34. NEBULOUS, 35. PACIFIC ISLAND GROUP, 36. DOWN, 37. LENDER OF "BARNEY MILLER", 38. YALIE, 39. AFFLICTED, 40. MOST PIQUANT, 41. HEALING MEANS, 42. SMILES, 43. INCLINE, 44. FORTH, 45. HURRY, 46. DRY UP, 47. TV ANCHOR, 48. SO LONG, IN TJANS, 49. BENDS THE HEAD, 50. ARTIST'S FRAME, 51. 22 PUBLICIZE, 52. SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES, 53. WHOLESALE, SOMETIMES, 54. DREAMY IN NATURE, 55. SNAKE, 56. INFANTRYMAN, 57. NONVENEREAL ELEMENT, 58. CARCATER, 59. DE OPPOSITE, 60. VITAMIN A SOURCE, 61. FLORIDA CITY, 62. MARTYRED SAINT, 63. MOUTH PARTS, 64. HORST, 65. — ALTO, CAL., 66. PASSION, 67. BEGS, 68. SMALL HORSE, 69. 45 TRANSM, 70. SAILOR, 71. ELECTRICAL UNIT, 72. ZODIAC SIGN, 73. 51 RYAN STAT.

Dollar remains under pressure against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabalsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar remains under pressure against European currencies. Perceptions that the U.S. economy will remain in a slow growth, low inflation mode have dimmed prospects for Fed easing while European central banks continue to run tight monetary policies. We believe that pessimism about the U.S. economic outlook is overdone and expect the dollar to begin to rise again against European currencies in coming months as it becomes clear that the U.S. economy is delivering growth of 3 per cent or better. But we have trimmed our year-end dollar forecast to DM 1.70 on the view that European central banks will stick with tighter policies for longer than we earlier anticipated. We look for the dollar to strengthen to the DM 1.85 level over the next twelve months as European interest rates decline.

Although central bank intervention and expectations of a near-term cut in Japan's discount rate have helped the yen return to the 105 level against the dollar, continued large current account surpluses should lead to further yen strength over the next twelve months. Technical view: The U.S. dollar index fell 1.4 per cent for the week ended Sept. 10, as the greenback was on the defensive against most major currencies. Indeed, among the six major currencies that we regularly monitor, the dollar was able to post week-to-week gains against only the Japanese yen. Short term sentiment for the dollar is in a near overbought condition as there has recently been some heavy put activity on the major currencies. However, medium term sentiment surveys are neutral to near overbought.

Short term momentum for the dollar is deeply overbought; while it could turn to the upside at any time, those momentum lows have confirmed the price lows. Medium term momentum is also weak and could continue to put pressure on the dollar into November.

In this regard, it should be noted that the dollar's medium term oscillators are viewed as being weak versus four of the six currencies that we regularly discuss. With the index marginally broken the 91.00-93.00 support band, the technical evidence would suggest that it is likely to fully test the May lows (just above 88.00) in coming weeks. However, the overbought nature of the short term technical indicators does allow for a bounce and, in that regard, there is resistance at 92.00-93.00, then again above 94.00.

Deutsche Mark

Fundamental view: Despite a 0.5 per cent cut in the Bundesbank's official discount rate to 6.25 per cent on Sept. 9, the dollar remains under pressure against the Deutsche Mark. We view the dollar's recent weakness against European currencies as a temporary correction and continue to look for a stronger dollar against all

European currencies over the next twelve months. Our U.S. analysts think recent concerns about faltering growth in the U.S. are overdone, and expect real GDP growth of 3.0-to-3.5 per cent in the second half of this year. In contrast, our European economics group does not view the 0.5 per cent rise in German GNP in the second quarter as the beginning of economic recovery and expects Germany's recession to persist well into next year.

We are lowering our year-end target for the dollar to DM 1.70 from DM 1.80 reflecting the likelihood that European central banks will not be as aggressive in cutting rates in the near term as we previously thought.

But prospects for a drop in German short-term rates of 200 or more basis points over the next twelve months should eventually bring the dollar close to its estimated purchasing power parity value of DM 1.90. We look for the dollar to reach DM 1.80 and DM 1.85 over the next six and 12 months respectively.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar fell 1.6 per cent versus the Deutschemark last week. The greenback has now dropped over 8 per cent from its late July highs. Not surprisingly, sentiment toward the Deutschemark is beginning to reflect this strength as put/call ratios are now overbought after the recent abundance of call buying. Even medium term sentiment surveys have now entered overbought territory. The negative sentiment picture is bolstered by short term momentum, which is now at its most overbought readings in months.

While all of this does support the idea of an impending correction, the fact that short term oscillators did confirm the recent highs and that medium term momentum remains upwardly biased, implies that higher highs are still indicated — short term weakness notwithstanding. In addition, last week's rally through 1.62 DM/US\$ implies that a test of the twin peaks recorded last April and December in the 1.55-.57 range is now likely. The break out point at 1.62 is low support, with second support likely near 1.667. The mark/yen cross-rate has held well above the 62-64 trading range and has done so with solid short and medium term momentum indications. While the possibility of a reset of the recent lows still exists, the probabilities of such a test have weakened.

Support in the low 60s appears to be fairly strong and it will take some effort to break that area for a move to benchmark support near 57-58. Significant chart resistance remains at 70.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: Expectations of an imminent 0.5 per cent cut in Japan's official discount rate and speculation about a more aggressive rate cut have helped stabilize the yen at the 105 level against the dollar after it reached a historic high of 100.3 on Aug. 17. Markets are also awaiting details of a third fiscal stimulus package. Near-term prospects for the yen are likely to depend importantly on the nature

of the policy mix Japan chooses. Failure of the government to deliver either a rate cut or an income tax cut could put sharp upward pressure on the yen and lead to downward revisions for Japan's growth next year. That would intensify pressure on the Bank of Japan for more aggressive monetary ease. Conversely, a larger than-expected rate cut of 0.75 per cent-to-1.0 per cent could take pressure off the yen for the time being. Recently released business confidence surveys and a weak second quarter GNP report confirm that the economy has entered a "double dip recession."

Longer-term, we remain skeptical that currently envisioned fiscal and monetary policies will make a substantial dent in Japan's current account position, and maintain our 6- and 12-month forecasts for the yen/USD rate of 100 and 95 respectively. Over the next twelve months, we look for the yen to trade in a broad range of 90-to-110 against the dollar.

Technical view: The Japanese yen was the only one of the six currencies we regularly monitor that lost ground against the U.S. dollar last week as the greenback managed a gain of 1.5 per cent. Short term sentiment for the yen remains constructive (as it has since mid August) and medium term sentiment readings are now at near overbought levels. Although medium term momentum has a downward bias for the currency, short term momentum is overbought and appears to be bottoming. This, plus the difficulty the yen has had with indicated first support at 105/106 JY/US\$, suggests that a rally versus the dollar may be in the offing over the near term. However, we would view such a move as being counter trend against the larger medium term yen downtrend.

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Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 16/9/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	5.06	5.51	3.50
Sterling Pound	5.95	5.87	5.68	5.62
Deutsche Mark	6.68	6.50	6.25	5.87
Swiss Franc	4.68	4.62	4.50	4.25
French Franc	7.06	7.00	6.62	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.78	2.59	2.59	2.56
European Currency Unit	7.81	7.63	7.12	6.62

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 m. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 16/9/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	548.70	7.00	Silver	4.04	0.090

31 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 16/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1.0634	1.0687
Deutsche Mark	0.4300	0.4321
Swiss Franc	0.4925	0.4951
French Franc	0.1232	0.1258
Japanese Yen	0.6548	0.6581
Dutch Guilder	0.5828	0.5847
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0447
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.0445	0.0447

Other Currencies Date: 16/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8120
Lebanese Lira	0.0584	0.0405
Saudi Riyal	0.1800	0.1850
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3350
Qatari Riyal	0.18549	0.18720
Emirati Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7440	1.7900
UAE Dirham	0.18549	0.18720
Greek Drachma	0.2910	0.3025
Cypriot Pound	1.3820	1.4125

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3140/50	Canadian dollar
	1.6135/45	Deutsche marks
	1.8080/90	Dutch guilders
	1.4040/50	Swiss francs
	34.30/40	Belgian francs
	5.6150/50	French francs
	1555.0/6.0	Italian lire
	104.35/45	Japanese yen
	7.9650/85	Swedish crowns
	7.0270/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.582/2	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5285/95	
One ounce of gold	\$353.00/353.50	

Yeltsin brings back Gaidar as deputy premier in cabinet reshuffle

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov, selected President Boris Yeltsin to give up his cabinet seat to reformer Yegor Gaidar, called Friday for urgent measures to prevent the economy from sliding into chaos.

In a report to parliament, Mr. Lobov said it was "too early to speak of any improvement" in the economy after 20 months of free-market reforms, warning that popular support for the measures was dwindling.

"The country and the people have survived the first steps of reform... but the situation could change and take a critical turn" if urgent measures are not taken, said Mr. Lobov, quoted by ITAR-TASS.

His comments came one day after Mr. Yeltsin announced that the senior minister would be replaced by Mr. Gaidar, the former acting prime minister and the architect of Russia's shock therapy market reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin said the appointment of Mr. Gaidar, 37, economist, who was sacked last December as a concession to hardliners in parliament, would settle months of bitter infighting between radical reformers led by Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov and conservatives headed by Mr. Lobov.

In his report, Mr. Lobov did not mention his departure from the cabinet, focusing instead on plans for the government's new anti-crisis programme, which is to be unveiled around Oct. 15.

The deputy prime minister said

a decrease in investment, large-scale conversion of industry and the breakdown in economic ties between enterprises had prevented the economy from stabilising this year.

According to the latest figures, inflation hit the near hyperinflation level of 29 per cent in August and jumped another six per cent in the first week of September.

Production in August also dropped by an overall average of 12 per cent compared to last year, and as much as 20 per cent in the petrochemical and building materials industry, Primer Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said this week.

The Interfax News Agency quoted a Gaidar aide as saying the young economist "could not wait with indifference as his baby — Russian reforms — was being suffocated by unskilled hands."

Mr. Gaidar's dramatic comeback came as the Russian government was embroiled in difficult negotiations with the International Monetary Fund for the release of a \$1.5-billion aid package.

The IMF had established targets for inflation and deficit reduction as conditions for obtaining the loan, but the latest economic indicators revealed the government was far from reaching the set goals.

The cabinet reshuffle was viewed in part as a signal to the west of Mr. Yeltsin's commitment to economic reforms, but it remained unclear that Mr. Gaidar would be able to put his

radical programme back on track.

"We've seen Gaidar come and go before... maybe his appointment isn't enough," commented one Western financial expert.

Yeltsin announced while touring an army base Thursday that he would sign the decree appointing Mr. Gaidar Saturday.

Mr. Chernomyrdin Friday dismissed suggestions that Mr. Gaidar would have trouble fitting back into the government team, ITAR-TASS reported.

The prime minister said Mr. Gaidar would follow the government's line and do what its chairman, Mr. Chernomyrdin, told him.

"In the government, as in any team, there is room for different people's opinions, but there will be a single basic line," TASS quoted the prime minister as telling reporters in the western city of Bryansk.

"I don't think Yegor Gaidar and I will have any problems. On the contrary, I think he will strengthen our economic bloc in the government," said Mr. Chernomyrdin, adding that Mr. Gaidar's new appointment had been his own initiative.

President Yeltsin Friday dismissed Deputy Foreign Ministers Andrei Kolesovskiy and Grigori Berdennikov, a presidential statement said.

The two would be assigned other posts, the statement added. The dismissals coincided with the recall Friday of Russia's ambassador to Britain, Boris Pankin, who is expected to retire. Interfax News Agency said the

changes heralded the replacement of Moscow's ambassador in Washington, Vladimir Lukin, who is in growing conflict with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, by the envoy to the United Nations, Yuli Vorontsov.

Meanwhile, Russia's Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi accused the Kremlin Friday of preparing to introduce direct presidential rule which he said would amount to dictatorship.

"Practically everything has been prepared by the Kremlin authorities to introduce presidential rule and, in essence, a dictatorial regime," Mr. Rutskoi told parliament in the latest of a series of attacks on President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Rutskoi, who ran on Mr. Yeltsin's ticket in 1991 presidential elections, has become his outspoken opponent and a leader of the conservative opposition.

He said he remained Russia's vice-president despite what he called an unconstitutional Yeltsin decree this month suspending him from the post pending a probe into corruption allegations.

In a separate development, Russian Parliament Chairman Khasbulatov said Friday that Commonwealth states should strive for economic, political and military union to repair the damage caused by the Soviet Union's collapse.

Mr. Khasbulatov told parliament that "common sense and harsh reality" dictated the necessity of building what he called a West European-type union.



Hong Kong firemen watch as a pedestrian passes bamboo scaffolding which was blown by a tropical storm Friday (AFP photo)

Storm wreaks havoc in Hong Kong, Macau

HONG KONG (R) — Fourteen fishermen were still believed missing in heavy seas off Hong Kong Friday as tropical storm Becky lashed the South China, leaving up to 1,000 people homeless in nearby Macau.

In a major rescue operation coordinated from Hong Kong, 12 rescue missions were mounted, including a British Royal Air Force (RAF) helicopter which ditched in mountainous seas after both its engines failed.

All four airmen from the RAF Wessex were winched to safety while other helicopters mounted an operation to pluck more than 20 people from the sea, believed to be from one of three fishing boats which sank.

Marine rescue coordinator Trevor Berry said 14 Chinese fishermen were still missing. Numerous ships ran into trouble

and Hong Kong authorities were inundated by distress signals. RAF helicopters and the civilian Government Flying Service (GFS) shuttled from one rescue to another.

In Hong Kong flights were halted, Becky triggered landslides and about 130 people were injured, mostly by flying debris, while the British colony's stock market closed for the day.

Macau took the brunt of the storm which passed about 30 kilometres from the Portuguese enclave as it moved towards China's Guangdong province. The Portuguese News Agency, LUSA, said up to 1,000 people, mostly living in shanties, were made homeless after Becky whipped Macau with winds of nearly 170 kmh (105 mph).

Becky inflicted severe damage on the Macau pier, where high-speed ferries normally bring thousands of Hong Kong gamblers every day, a mainstay of the local economy.

The flimsy old ferry terminal is not due to be replaced by a sturdier new building until November.

Almost all Macau's casinos were closed down but in the Lisboa — a brass, Las Vegas-style hotel near the waterfront — gamblers played on through the storm.

Elsewhere in Macau, part of the facade of another hotel was swept away, bamboo scaffolding was sent flying and cars were crushed by falling trees. Dozens of people were injured and two underwent surgery.

No news of casualties or damage was immediately available from nearby China.

Sihanouk will return to sign constitution

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk will return to Phnom Penh next Thursday and sign the country's new constitution the next day, a spokesman for the National Assembly said Friday.

The prince would arrive from Peking and return there soon after promulgating the constitution, according to a facsimile received by the palace secretary, the spokesman said.

Cambodian national radio also reported Friday a message from Prince Sihanouk to his son Prince Ranariddh, referring to the illness which has so far delayed his return from Peking.

"After this historic promulgation on the sacred and venerated soil of Cambodia, I will request the permission of our beloved nation to return by the same special plane of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Peking where I will undergo an indispensable surgical operation to remove a tumour discovered in my large intestine," Prince Sihanouk said.

Following three days of often spirited debate about the coun-

try's new constitution, Prince Ranariddh said Friday he believed Cambodian politics were maturing.

A final draft should be approved by Monday which would make Cambodia a constitutional monarchy, he said.

The new constitution would pave the way for Prince Sihanouk to become king again. He abdicated in favour of his father in 1955.

The level of debate over the past days has been "a very good one," Prince Ranariddh told reporters outside the National Assembly building.

"It's what I expected and it shows that there is a political friendship and maturity of politics — I am so happy for our people."

The Royalist chief whose party secured a modest win in the May elections said the establishment of a new parliament would hasten the end of factional divisions. Cambodian lawmakers would soon be identified by their constituency rather than their political affiliation, he said.

Under the new constitution, Cambodia's two-leader system

would be scrapped in favour of Prince Ranariddh as senior prime minister and Hun Sen occupying the deputy or second prime minister position.

Following the elections an interim coalition government has ruled Cambodia led by co-presidents, Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen the former prime minister of the Hanoi-installed regime. Prince Ranariddh denied the new leadership proposals had caused any personal strain between him and Mr. Hun Sen. "The two men who were once bitter enemies now claim to be good friends and go boating together with their wives and family friends on the Bassac River."

Prince Ranariddh emphasised a continuing system of power-sharing through "consensus."

"I have to have consent of Excellency Hun Sen. I think this point is very clear," he said. "Knowing this, the CPP yesterday officially endorsed the formula," he said referring to the Cambodian Peoples Party, the political wing of the former Phnom Penh government.

Calls for referendum grow as Buthelezi stands firm

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Calls grew Friday for a snap referendum to break South Africa's political logjam after President F.W. de Klerk failed Thursday to woo Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi back to democracy talks.

The Johannesburg daily the Star, in a front page editorial, said a referendum would show whether Mr. Buthelezi and other political leaders snubbing multi-party talks here really had the backing of their followers.

Widespread support for the efforts of the negotiators would build up momentum for the democratic process and unite most of the nation across party lines, Star editor-in-chief Richard Steyn argued.

On Monday, Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer left the door open for a constitutional referendum if some political groups persisted in spinning the talks.

Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), along with some black homeland and white right-wing groups, walked out of the talks on July 2, the day negotiators decided on April 27 next year as the date for the country's first non-racial election.

After eight hours of talks Thursday during which Mr. De Klerk tried to persuade him to return to the process, Mr. Buthelezi remained defiant. "It is just not possible at present," he said. "We made no decision about going back to the talks. We are still trying to find a way forward."

Mr. Buthelezi said the entire process needed to be urgently reviewed and asked Mr. De Klerk to join the IFP and the other disgruntled groups in a constitutional convention to scrutinise all agreements reached so far at negotiations.

Meanwhile, two people were killed early Friday in a drive-by shooting in Kaitheong black township east of here, while four people were stabbed, shot and burnt to death in Natal province overnight, police said.

Mr. Major dismissed the talk of a leadership challenge Thursday as a scurrilous "silly season story."

The mumbly of mutiny were fuelled Thursday by an open assault from sacked Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, who used newspaper articles to snipe at Mr. Major's quality of leadership and his position on European Monetary Union.

On Thursday night, Mr. Lamont pledged his support for Mr. Major during a television debate and predicted there would be no immediate leadership challenge. But he left the impression of festering grievance.

Mr. Lamont also hinted he could cause more trouble as parliament gears up for its autumn session and Mr. Major tackles the task of rallying support for the party's annual set-piece conference in just three weeks' time.

Georgia seeks Russian aid in Abkhazia

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze began crisis talks with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev Friday after marshalling resistance to a secessionist rebellion in Abkhazia.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said the leaders met in the south Russian resort of Sochi the day after the rebels shattered a seven-week-old Russian-brokered truce and launched a major attack on Georgian forces.

A spokesman for the Georgian parliament said it was assumed that Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba would also take part in the talks, but there was no confirmation.

A Georgian military spokesman said fighting continued Friday morning in the besieged Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi, but it was less intense than Thursday.

Teimuraz Stepanov, head of Mr. Shevardnadze's administration, said by telephone that 21 people had been killed and 151 wounded in the two days of fighting so far.

The July 28 truce, signed in Sochi, was designed to end a civil war between government forces and rebels seeking more autonomy for Abkhazia, a Black Sea province of Georgia. Several thousand people died in the previous 12 months' fighting.

Mr. Shevardnadze, his conscience smarting after the collapse of a peace deal to which he had nailed his personal authority, flew to Sukhumi Thursday night

and declared he would not leave until it was safe against rebel attacks.

He bulldozed the ceasefire through the Georgian parliament over the misgivings of deputies sceptical at its tough terms. These included withdrawal of Georgian units from Sukhumi.

The rebel attack, occurring only days after parliament agreed to grant him emergency powers to tackle rising anarchy in the country, has seriously undermined Mr. Shevardnadze's position.

He himself narrowly escaped injury when Abkhazian shells blasted a building where he was consulting military leaders in Sukhumi. Georgian officials said two local security men were killed and one of the Georgian leader's personal bodyguards was saved by his bullet-proof vest during the shelling.

The former Soviet foreign minister told a television journalist: "I will see this through to the end. I have a troubled conscience to the extent that I was the initiator of the Sochi agreement for a ceasefire."

Russia, guarantor of the Abkhazian ceasefire, also appeared to have good cause for anger. A government statement Thursday warned the Abkhazians to comply with the ceasefire or face the consequences.

Mr. Grachev flew to Sochi from the rebel headquarters at Gudauta, where he met Mr. Ardzinba.

Battle rages in Angola despite U.N. threat

SAO TOME (R) — Angolan government jets struck rebel lines in an effort to break the stalemate on the starving city of Cuito, reports said Friday. Planes also dropped supplies by parachute into the central highland city, where up to 20,000 people are estimated to have died of war, hunger or disease during the eight-month rebel siege.

Angolan state radio said the UNITA rebels were keeping up the pressure on Cuito despite a United Nations threat to impose sanctions on them unless they stopped fighting.

In Abidjan, rebel officials were due to meet a U.S. delegation again to discuss their own peace offer.

A 1991 peace accord halted 16

years of civil war between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence for the Liberation of Angola) and the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola).

The rebels took up arms again after losing a U.N.-supervised election in September 1992. U.N. officials have described the renewed hostilities as the worst war in the world.

The state radio said the rebels had stepped up artillery bombardment on ruined Cuito and thrown fresh waves of troops against its defence lines.

"The noise of gunfire is deafening," said its correspondent in Cuito, Abel Abriao, in a report monitored on the island state of

Sao Tome and Principe.

UNITA wanted to capture Cuito before declaring a unilateral ceasefire Monday, it said.

The government commander in central Angola, General Armando Da Cruz, told the Portuguese News Agency, LUSA, that air force planes had managed to parachute supplies into Cuito Wednesday during a lull in the fighting.

Foreign Minister Venancio De Moura said on the same day that starving inhabitants had been forced to eat the flesh of dead people.

Fighter bombers made four air raids against rebel positions on the city outskirts Thursday, Gen. Da Cruz added.

Mother Teresa's condition improves after operation

CALCUTTA (AP) — Mother Teresa was cheerful and back on normal diet Friday, one day after an operation to clear a blood vessel in her heart, doctors said. The 83-year-old Nobel laureate underwent an operation called "balloon angioplasty." The two-hour procedure involved inserting a tiny balloon into the clogged blood vessel to ensure a free flow of blood. "She is much more cheerful and blood pressure and pulse rate normal," said Dr. Tarun Kumar Prahara, a cardiologist who helped Dr. Patricia Aubrey, Mother Teresa's personal physician from the United States, conduct the operation. The question Mother Teresa asked Friday morning was whether she could leave the hospital immediately. Dr. Prahara said doctors at the B.M. Birla Institute of Research, where she was admitted Monday, said Mother Teresa may have to stay another four days for observation. This is the fourth time a Roman Catholic nun has been in a hospital this year. The last was on Aug. 20 in the Indian capital, New Delhi, when she was treated for malaria.

Honecker leaves Santiago hospital

SANTIAGO (AFP) — Former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker was released from a private hospital in Chilean capital Santiago Thursday after undergoing tests, hospital officials said. Mr. Honecker, 70, suffers from terminal liver cancer. He was taken to Santiago's Condes Clinic in the early hours of the morning, and left with wife Margot in a car driven by daughter Sonja. "There tests to determine the progression of the disease because it is a progressive illness. For the moment, I could say (of the disease) has speed up," the hospital's director Pedro Cubillos said. Reports from Germany citing Mr. Honecker's daughter last month said his condition had taken a sharp turn for the worse. The former East German court ruled that was too ill to stand trial for crimes committed during his period power.

English girl gets 2nd multiple-organ transplant

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A 10-year-old English girl remained in critical condition after receiving seven new organs in a 15-hour operation. Doctors continue Thursday night to monitor the girl's condition and check for signs of infection and proper organ function, said Stephen Andrews, a spokesman for the girl's hospital, St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Pittsburgh. "Everything is going just as we should. There are no complications at all," Mr. Andrews said. He said she had not yet woken from the anesthesia, as expected. Critical condition is standard for several days following transplant surgery. Laura, Manchester, England, was given a new liver, stomach, pancreas and large intestine. She had weakened other abdominal organs. The operation began Wednesday at 10 p.m. (GMT) and concluded Thursday at 1 p.m. (1700 GMT). Andrews said the surgery proceeded smoothly and the girl remained stable throughout. Hospital spokeswoman Marga Lemasters said.

Most wanted radical anti-war fugitive surrenders

BOSTON (AFP) — A member of a radical anti-war group who spent 23 years in hiding after a bank robbery in which a policeman was killed ended her secret life and surrendered to authorities. Katherine Anne Power, one of the most sought-after woman fugitives in U.S. history, had been living under an alias in a small Oregon town with her husband and 14-year-old son. Power's attorney arranged her surrender over the last seven months and said they hoped it would spend less than five years in prison. A senior at Brandeis University on a scholarship, Power was accused of driving a getaway car following a Sept. 1970 robbery at State Street Bank and Trust in which a Boston policeman was killed and \$261,000 was stolen. She had been charged with first-degree murder and on the FBI's most-wanted list in 1984, when the last enforcement agency removed her name because it had no leads. Mr. Power spent several years on the FBI's wanted list. She was arrested in 1975 and paroled in 1982. She revealed her identity to friends at a party known as Alice Metzinger, a co-owner of a restaurant, in a statement, she said she had decided to take responsibility for "such a heinous act" she had committed.

copy in 1991

DAVIS CUP

Security to be heavy for players, fans

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Armed police around the stadium, bomb-sniffing dogs, metal detectors at entry points and commandos escorting the players.

All this is part of the unprecedented security for next week's Davis Cup semifinal between India and Australia in Chandigarh, capital of the northern state of Punjab where a 10-year-old violent Sikh separatist insurgency is just subsiding.

Besides the terrorist threat, police are also prepared to guard the players from eccentric fans.

"We have kept the Monica Seles incident also in mind while laying out the security ring," said Police Inspector General Sarabjit Singh, referring to the April 30 incident in Hamburg, Germany, when Seles was stabbed in the back on the court during a changeover. The attack was by a 38-year-old man who described himself as a fan of Seles' rival Steffi Graf.

The three-day tournament starting Sept. 24 will feature the underdog Indian team of Leander Paes and Ramesh Krishnan, Gaurav Natekar, Zeeshan Ali.

The four-member Australian squad led by U.S. Open semifinalist Wally Masur is scheduled to arrive Saturday. The other team members are Jason Stoltenberg, Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge.

The players will stay in a hotel about 500 yards

from the stadium.

"The entire route from the hotel to the stadium would be sealed and armed policemen on rooftops would keep track of the players' motorcade," Singh said.

He said commandos would escort the players in and out of the court. "They would always be covered by a human chain of our men," Singh told the Associated Press.

He said more than 200 plainclothes officers will keep a vigil inside the stadium and another 500 police armed with automatic rifles would ring the stadium.

Chandigarh, a city designed by French architect Le Corbusier, is one of the highest security zones in Punjab state, the battleground of Sikh separatist militants. After a prolonged war of attrition, security forces have nearly crushed the insurgency although the rebels are still capable of isolated acts of terrorism.

Singh said each of the 6,000 people, who have bought tickets, would be searched with metal detectors at three check points.

Dogs trained to detect bombs would comb the court and the stands before the match on each of the three days.

The winner of the India-Australia tie would play the winner of Germany-Sweden semifinal to be played concurrently in Borlange, Sweden.

Pioline upset; Ivanisevic advances

BUCHAREST (AP) — U.S. Open runnerup Cedric Pioline of France was upset by unseeded Italian Andrea Gaudenzi Thursday in the second round of the Romanian Open tennis tournament.

The third-seeded Pioline, playing his second match since losing to Pete Sampras four days ago in the final at Flushing Meadows, lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

"I still am living in another time zone. For me it's morning now," Pioline said. "Besides, Gaudenzi is a very good clay player, and I've last played on clay three months ago."

"I fought hard for every ball and did my best to have him run because I knew he was tired after his U.S. Open race," said the 20-year-old Gaudenzi.

Top seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia downed Uruguay's Marcelo Filippini 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 in another second round match to the country's first ever open tennis tournament.

Pioline's defeat followed a loss Wednesday by No. 2 seed Thomas Muster of Austria, leaving Gaudenzi to meet another unseeded player, Francisco Clavet of Spain, in the quarterfinals.

Clavet beat South Africa's Marcos Ondruska 6-1, 6-4.

Ivanisevic will meet Romania's Dinu Pescariu and Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson, seeded No. 5, will play Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina in the quarterfinals of the \$355,000 Bordeaux Passing Shot tennis tournament.



Arnaud Boetsch

quarterfinals.

Seeds advance at Bordeaux tennis

In Bordeaux, France, second-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland beat American Patrick McEnroe, 5-4, 6-3, to gain the

quarterfinals of the \$355,000 Bordeaux Passing Shot tennis tournament.

All of the matches were in the second round after rain disrupted play over the first three days.

France's Arnaud Boetsch, the No. 3 seed, beat Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela, 7-5, 7-5, but No. 5 seed, Fabrice Santoro of France, lost to Diego Nargiso of Italy, 6-1, 6-2, as a sore shoulder bothered Santoro.

Beijing threatens boycott of Atlanta Games

SYDNEY (AFP) — China will boycott the 1996 Atlanta Olympics in Beijing's bid to stage the 2000 Games is blocked by the actions of the U.S. Congress, a Beijing official has told an Australian television station.

SBS Television said Friday that in an interview, Beijing bid Committee Chief Executive Zhang Baifa had warned: "We could boycott the U.S. in the 1996 Games in Atlanta," he accused the U.S. Congress of being "stupid."

The interview was recorded August 31 and is being screened Saturday night.

Reporter Jane Hutcheon said Zhang's threat came after he was angered by questioning about U.S. opposition to Beijing's Olympic bid over China's human rights issues.

Zhang, who is also executive deputy mayor of Beijing, was asked if he blamed the Americans for anti-Beijing sentiment.

"It's not the American people," he replied. "They're very good to us. It's their Congress which is stupid. For instance, they've passed a resolution objecting to our Olympic bid."

"On the other hand, we could boycott the U.S. in the 1996 Games in Atlanta."

"If we failed in the bid, I could write to the U.S. House of Representatives and complain that they interfered with the bid and that I had to take revenge."

Zhang said human rights criticism had been "a load of rubbish."

"What the U.S. Congress says is also lies," he added. "If Beijing won the bid, China would become a strong opponent to them. They're worried that we would develop too fast."

Since the interview was recorded, Australia and Britain

have voiced strong opposition to China's bid, arguing that a decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) favouring Beijing would lack legitimacy.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Thursday that Beijing would be "a bad choice."

"I think there are very strong reasons against (Beijing), you only have to look at the newspapers every day to see what they are," Hurd said. "I do not think that is a good idea."

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said in Washington that a win for Beijing would be a political decision and that the IOC should stay out of "geopolitics."

During the SBS interview, a transcript of which was given to AFP, Hutcheon tells Zhang: "Two many people Beijing is synonymous with the Tiananmen incident of 1989. How do you forget an incident like that?"

He replied: "I don't want to talk about it."

"I always feel angry whenever I am asked. It's been four years since 1986. Why do we still have to mention it?"

"What about the people being burnt to death in Los Angeles? Why don't people talk about that? What about the incident in Yugoslavia and the people in Palestine? Why don't people leave our affairs alone?"

"I'm just so fed up that I don't even want to give any comments. The Americans are the worst regarding human rights. They seized the president of Panama and put him on trial in the States."

"What sort of rights do you call that? Who doesn't know that the Americans are the biggest arms dealer in the world? While we're not allowed to sell any weapons yet

it's all right with them. Is that human rights or bully rights? "I don't want to talk about it. It's unfair. They're bullying us. It's their Congress which is stupid."

"For instance, they've passed a resolution objecting to our Olympic bid."

In Beijing, the Chinese bid campaign publicity director played down any idea of a boycott.

He Zhenwen said China was against a boycott. "Our position has not changed. Boycotting the Games is harmful to the development of the Olympic movement," he told AFP.

China's participation in the (1984) Los Angeles Games proves we are against boycotts," he said. The East Bloc, except for Romania, snubbed the 1984 Olympics, retaliating for the United States' refusal to attend the 1980 Games in Moscow after Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan.

He said he was unable to confirm Zhang's remarks, saying "We have to check."

Human rights issue hangs over vote for 2000 Olympics

In Monte Carlo, Monaco, with the race for the Olympics of the year 2000 down to a final sprint, the contest has been stirred up by a highly-charged political issue: Human rights.

Controversy over whether to award the Games to China, just four years after the Tiananmen square crackdown, has turned the election into one of the most politically-sensitive in history.

When the International Olympic Committee selects the host city by secret ballot next Thursday, the result could bring as much on politics as on sports facilities and financial projections.

Beijing is one of five cities vying for the right to stage the games of the XXVII Olympiad. Its competitors are Berlin; Manchester, England, Istanbul, and Sydney.

The race appears to be tight, with Sydney, Beijing and possibly Manchester as the main contenders. Berlin has made enough recent gains to be considered a legitimate outsider, while Istanbul is viewed as a longshot.

Three other cities dropped out during the past year: Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Milan, Italy, and Brasilia.

On paper, Sydney stands out as the clearest favourite. The Australian city came out way ahead of its rivals in an IOC report analyzing the technical merits of each bid — including venues, hotels, security, transportation, environment and finances.

"The bid offers conditions over and above what is required by the IOC," the report gushed.

"The IOC inspectors were much less effusive about Beijing's bid, describing it only as 'realistic and solid'."

While Australia, Britain and Germany have hosted previous Olympics, China views the games as the perfect stage to herald its arrival in the modern world as a sporting and economic superpower.

"Sydney is the athletes' choice. Beijing is the choice of the politicians," said Bruce Baird, Australia's transportation minister and one of the bid officials.

The House of Representatives, the lower and larger of the two houses of the U.S. Congress, passed a resolution last month opposing Beijing's candidacy, noting that the head of the bid — former Mayor Chen Xitong — signed the order for the bloody crack-

down on pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989.

Sixty U.S. Senators, including 1964 Olympic basketball gold medalist Bill Bradley, sent letters to all IOC members saying that giving the Games to Beijing "would confer upon China's leaders a stamp of approval by the international community they do not deserve."

"All of us not connected with Beijing hope the U.S. congressmen will shut up," said Bob Scott, chairman of the Manchester bid.

On Monday, China announced the release of its most famous political prisoner, Wei Jingsheng, jailed since 1979.

The announcement appeared to be timed for maximum effect, just 10 days before the IOC vote. Human Rights Watch called it "a token gesture of unbridled cynicism."

China's late push also included four world records in six days by its astounding female distance runners at the National Games in Beijing. The event was meant to showcase China's sporting prowess, but some have alleged the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Sydney bid officials, who have carefully avoided embroiling themselves in the human rights controversy, sound confident. But Manchester, bidding for a second consecutive time, believes it has pulled even with the leaders.

"Each of the three main candidates has a major flaw," Scott said. "Sydney has distance, Beijing has politics and Manchester has image. It's the candidate that can cover up its flaws the best and emphasize its strengths that will win."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celtics to retire Lewis', McHale's jerseys

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics plan to retire No. 35, worn by Reggie Lewis, some time next season and Kevin McHale's No. 32 this season. "At the request of the Lewis family, the ceremony retiring Reggie's number will be reserved for a date to be set during the 1994-95 season," Celtics Executive Vice President Dave Gavitt said Thursday. Meanwhile, the Celtics will wear a specially designed uniform patch to honour the team captain, who died July 27 of a heart defect after collapsing on a basketball court at Brandeis University. McHale, who retired in April at the end of his 13th season both in the NBA and with the Celtics, will be honoured at a Jan. 30 ceremony during halftime in a game against the Phoenix Suns. His jersey will be raised to the rafters with those of Celtics greats Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, Larry Bird and others. The Celtics have retired 16 numbers.

Kankkunen needs victory in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Three times world champion Juha Kankkunen needs victory in the Australian Rally which begins Saturday to give himself a realistic chance of recapturing the world title. The

Finn, who heads the standings with 91 points after winning three events this season, leads his nearest rival, Toyota teammate Didier Auriol of France, by 20 points. But third-placed Ford driver Francois Delecour poses the greatest threat. Frenchman Delecour, who has 70 points, could overtake the Toyota drivers, who will both miss the next two championship rounds under the sport's complicated rules.

China's track stars free of drugs: Tests

PEKING (AFP) — China's world record setting track stars were found to be drug free after undergoing tests, the organising committee for the National Games said Friday. Dai Wenzhong said no traces of illegal substances were found in urine samples taken by Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia after they set world records for 1,500 metres, 3,000 and 10,000 metre events at the games.

"They gave their urine samples for doping tests immediately after breaking the world records," he said in a report quoted by Xinhua News Agency. The remarkable performances of Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, who train under Ma Junren, immediately raised suspicions that the women were using performance enhancing drugs.

Wright awaits top English clash

LONDON (R) — England striker Ian Wright is nursing an injured foot but hopes to be fit in time for Sunday's top English Premier League clash between Arsenal and Manchester United.

"I think there's a very good chance that he will play against United," said Arsenal Manager George Graham.

Wright limped off four minutes before the end of Arsenal's 2-1 win over Danish club Odense in the European Cup on Wednesday.

United will have Welsh international striker Mark Hughes back in their side after suspension.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANAN HUSCH ©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10862 ♠2 ♠KJ5 ♠K95
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—We cannot conceive of a hand North could have that would not offer play for slam—as long as there are enough aces in the combined holding. We would start with four no trump—asking for aces.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q76542 ♠J104 ♠Q5 ♠A3
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—If you play five-card majors, the raise to two hearts is clear. One spade will only cause problems, unless partner's next bid is two of a major or one no trump. Playing four-card majors, you have to respond one spade and hope the auction develops favorably.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Void ♠A2 ♠10652 ♠AKQJ942
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
Pass Pass ?
What is your opening bid?
A.—In first seat, your hand would be too strong for any sort of preemptive bid. Once partner has passed, however, you should be more interested in shutting out the opponents than in finding partner with the magic hand for slam. Bid five clubs.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♠K8763 ♠A86 ♠AQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—With a minimum opening bid, don't act again unless forced, except when you have additional information for partner. Here, you want to tell partner of your sixth heart and the fact the auction has improved your club holding. Bid two hearts.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ10 ♠Q74 ♠Q652 ♠A36
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—With a flat hand, do you really want to bid a petard four-card minor at the two-level in response to partner's take-out double? We prefer telling a white lie about our heart stopper to describe a balanced hand with reasonable values by responding one no trump.
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ74 ♠AKJ5 ♠K85 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You are certainly heading for slam—as soon as you know where to play the hand. For the moment there is no need to do anything more than three hearts. Partner's next bid will help clarify how to proceed.

Short, Kasparov draw keeps chess challenge alive

LONDON (R) — Briton Nigel Short kept his chess title challenge alive Thursday when he drew the fifth game in his match with world champion Garry Kasparov, despite having the handicap of the black pieces.

Kasparov still holds a commanding 4-1 lead in the 24-game duel but saw his much-vaunted advantage of the white pieces neutralized for the first time in the match, and in dramatic fashion.

The draw after just 18 moves kept Short in the battle for the chess crown and gave his supporters a much-needed boost.

He was pleased but guarded

about his prospects after putting in a bold performance. The 28-year-old challenger needed just 11 minutes to post the result while Kasparov used an hour and a half of his allotted two hours for the first 40 moves.

Short was in high spirits at a post-match news conference, but when asked if he saw this game as a turning point he fell into a long, pained silence.

"I believe I will play better than you saw me in the fourth game (Short's worst loss of the match). It is very difficult to say," he finally replied.

Short daringly entered a line

on for many more moves."

Short also explained his blinding speed of play: "Everything was prepared so it was very easy for me. It is not normal in chess to prepare games from beginning to end — it is not easy."

Short draws are often received with harsh criticism, but the challenger's peaceful result had the opposite effect.

In the official world championship organized by international chess Federation FIDE, favourite Anatoly Karpov leads Dutchman Jan Timman 3-2 to

2½. Play resumes in Amsterdam, with Timman having the white pieces.

The world body stripped Kasparov and Short of their titles when they refused to play their match under the FIDE banner.

They formed their own organisation, the PCA (Professional Chess Association), and the London Times newspaper put up a purse of 1.7 million pounds (\$2.63 million) for the breakaway duel.

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By Mariam M. Shahin
With Agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Friday denied reports that reconciliation with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat was imminent and called for the election of an alternative Palestinian leadership.

"We refuse to meet with Yasser Arafat because he no longer represents the Palestinian people. He represents a party that has sold Palestine," said the Jordan representative of Hamas Ibrahim Ghosheh, after addressing an anti-peace rally in Sweiteh. Hamas also denied that it had entered a truce with Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO. But it is possible, Mr. Ghosheh said.

"This is not about Fatah and Hamas. Most of the Fatah members were against this agreement anyway. So we do not want to fight Fatah," Mr. Ghosheh told the Jordan Times.

"We condone violence against Israel but not against each other, but let us hope that Mr. Arafat has the same attitude," said Mr. Ghosheh.

Hamas, which is participating in a "rejectionist" conference in Damascus this week, is planning to meet several members of the Fatah Central Committee in Yemen later this month or in early October to discuss ways to fight the Gaza-Jericho first accord signed Sept. 13.

Hamas denounced the PLO-Israeli accord offering Palestinians limited self-rule on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho as a sellout of Palestinian lands and rights.

The group Friday rejected the results of polls taken in the occupied territories that indicate a majority support among Palestinians for the pact. Although Hamas has used polls taken in the previous months to support its anti-peace talks stand, it refused to acknowledge the possibility that the polls taken in the territories after Monday's pact could be accurate.

"We do not trust polls," said Mr. Ghosheh, who has been quoting every poll taken in the territories for the last six months to support Hamas' stands. "We want a poll taken among all Palestinians — All seven million Palestinians."

Hamas, he said, has launched a diplomatic campaign to rally support for its political stand. The group has asked for an audience with the heads of state of Yemen, Sudan, Syria and Iran. The group has also asked for an audience with His Majesty King Hussein.

Two Hamas delegations headed for Sudan and Iran respectively Friday. One delegation was headed by Faris Mishal and the other by Imad Al Alami.

The meeting of 10 Palestinian opposition parties in Damascus was being given full respect by the government of Syria, said Mr. Ghosheh. Abdul Halim Khaddam, Syria's vice president, has met the group, Mr. Ghosheh said.

Mr. Ghosheh said the expected Damascus meeting to declare that the PLO as it existed has been dissolved and that Mr. Arafat is longer the legal head of the Palestinian revolution.

"He has signed it all away. There is nothing left to liberate," Mr. Ghosheh said of Mr. Arafat. "The group will decree the election of an alternative temporary leadership," said Mr. Ghosheh.

Palestinians in Gaza with links to Hamas came out in support Friday of a truce with Fatah group to avert bloodshed over the autonomy deal with Israel.

Saudi Shawwa, a veterinarian close to Hamas, said he was "proud of the two organisations' leaderships" for reaching a truce, and stressed that violence between Palestinians must be averted.

Ibrahim Yazuri, president of the Islamic Society, an aid organisation in Gaza, told AFP he was unaware of such a truce.

"However, if this information proves correct I can only be happy since inter-Palestinian ties must be based on mutual respect and differences must not lead to violence," he said.

Fatah announced late Thursday in Toulis that it and Hamas had reached a truce.

Fatah officials said the deal on preventing inter-Palestinian clashes applied to the entire occupied territories and had been hammered out between leaders of the rival Palestinian factions held in Gaza City's central prison.

The six-point "code of honor"

adopted by Fatah and Hamas forbids physical or verbal violence and guarantees mutual freedom of opinion and expression.

The document, which allows both movements to retain their widely divergent political positions, was released hours after Hamas's Amman representative pledged in Damascus to boycott all meetings attended by PLO and Mr. Arafat.

In the preamble to their understanding, both parties describe the current situation as a "dangerous historical turning point" and commit themselves to upholding the interests of Palestinians and to thwarting plotters and groups "wagering on a fratricidal war."

Fatah and Hamas also announced the creation of regional "dialogue and coordination" committees to monitor the truce and preempt possible conflicts.

The movement plan to invite leading Palestinians to impress upon militants the "dangers of clashes in the current situation," the accord added.

But both insisted on "freedom of opinion for groups and individuals" and their right to hold peaceful demonstrations while inviting all other Palestinian movements to respect the conditions of the truce.

The PLO's two other principal movements, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), have both pledged to scupper the autonomy accord by non-violent means.

The DFLP said Thursday Syria had assured Palestinian national rights.

At the same time, about 4,000 Palestinians refugees staged a noisy protest in a refugee camp in Damascus accusing Mr. Arafat of high treason for his peace deal with Israel.

A DFLP said a delegation led by its leader Nayef Hawatmeh discussed the regional situation after Monday's PLO-Israeli Palestinian self-rule deal with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Thursday.

Mr. Khaddam "stressed Syria's insistence on a comprehensive solution based on Israel withdrawal from all occupied lands and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national rights," the DFLP statement said.

This was the second such meeting in three days between Mr. Khaddam and Palestinian groups opposed to Mr. Arafat and the self-rule deal.

The PFLP said a delegation led by its leader George Habash had been given assurances by Mr. Khaddam on Tuesday of continued Syrian support "until the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital."

There has been no mention of the two meetings in the Syrian media.

Mr. Hawatmeh visited both Tunisia and Libya this week. It was not yet clear whom he met there, but Palestinian sources said intensive contacts were underway in Amman and Tunis to either dismiss Mr. Arafat from the PLO or create a rival organisation.

The DFLP statement said the delegation informed Mr. Khaddam of the group's call for "the gathering of all Palestinians forces and groups opposed to occupation and the giving up of deals in order to protect the goals of the intifada and the people."

The statement said the DFLP delegation told Mr. Khaddam it insisted on the continuation of the six-year-long intifada until Israel gave up the territories it occupied.

It also said the delegation also insisted on achieving the national rights of return of the Palestinian people, self-determination and an independent state.

Critics of Mr. Arafat have accused him of neglecting the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, their right to determine their future and of ending the dream of an independent Palestinian state.

Some 4,000 refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, who consider their chances of going back to their homes in what is now Israel are almost non-existent under the deal, demonstrated at the Generama refugee camp in Damascus.

They warned Mr. Arafat of the fate of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and was assassinated by Muslim zealots in 1981.

Mr. Hawatmeh said Friday that he and other Palestinian leaders were trying to persuade disgruntled leaders of Fatah to join them in opposing the peace pact



Palestinian women from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) hide their faces from photographers with anti-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaflets during a rally held at Bethlehem University against the Israel-PLO agreement on Palestinian autonomy (AFP photo)

U.S. to release \$30 million in security assistance for Jordan

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton has notified Congress of his intention to provide \$30 million in U.S. security assistance to Jordan, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry announced Thursday.

The action, taken under Section 614 of the Foreign Assistance Act, frees the fiscal year 1993 aid from legislative restrictions. The waiver would permit the administration to release the \$30 million immediately.

"This includes \$15 million in economic support funds, \$9 million to foreign military financing, and \$500,000 in international military education and training funds," the spokesman said. "The remaining \$5.5 million will fund various other projects, including initiatives on Middle East regional cooperation and the multilateral peace talks."

Mr. McCurry said Mr. Clinton's decision "will certainly further not only the interests we have in seeing the peace process advance," but it will also help the government of Jordan deal with some of the requirements that have been placed upon it.

There are ways some of the money can be used as part of the "empowerment funding that will be necessary to carry through on the recently signed agreement," the spokesman said, "but a large part of this assistance is obviously security assistance."

He said the \$5.5 million in non-security related assistance "are funds that could be used conceivably to finance some of the joint venture projects" that are to be developed as Palestinians begin to take control of the Jericho area under the agreement signed Sept. 13 by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington.

The spokesman said Secretary of State Warren Christopher has asked Deputy Secretary of State Clifford Wharton to form a group

from the State Department and other U.S. government agencies to develop a strategy on how to handle "not only economic issues, but some of the political issues arising from the agreement as well."

Mr. McCurry told questioners it was his understanding that Mr. Clinton, in a telephone call to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Sept. 15, discussed "the importance of redoubling support for the peace process. And I think he made it clear that the enemies of the peace process need to know that all the parties in the region are going to make the recent agreements work and are not going to be deterred from pursuing progress on other tracks."

In addition to the historic "early empowerment" agreement signed by Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13 as they exchanged mutual recognition, Israel and Jordan also signed an agreement on Sept. 14 that forms the framework for negotiations on an eventual peace treaty.

"We see enormous complexities in how all the various tracks of the comprehensive peace process fit together," Mr. McCurry said. "We have suggested to you often that they are interrelated and that what happens in one track does have an impact on another track. And I do think that we feel that in many ways it is important for there to be progress in the Palestinian track so that there can be progress in the Syrian track as well."

While there are "separate issues" in each of the negotiating tracks, they are interrelated, Mr. McCurry said. "There are probably more linkages between the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks than among the others, he said."

The United States remains in "very close contact with the parties," the spokesman told reporters, but cautioned them "against

assuming that we've had conversations with them about specific timing...or sequences at this point."

In discussions with the parties, the secretary has "made it clear that he will remain an active intermediary and a full partner in the process," Mr. McCurry said. "That may conceivably require him to travel to the region. It may require him to be more actively involved in the process here in Washington. But he stands ready to do what the parties think can help best in achieving a successful outcome to the negotiations."

He said the United States is "reaching out to other nations" through its diplomacy now, focusing on four major objectives. "We are encouraging parties to support the agreement that's been reached by the PLO and Israel," the spokesman said.

"We're taking a lot of steps to encourage other governments to be supportive of that accord, both politically and financially."

"We are urging the parties to end the Arab boycott of Israel and we'll be following that up on a diplomatic track," Mr. McCurry said. "We've already had diplomatic contact with various parties in the Middle East. We'll be following up on that contact, perhaps in some cases at a higher level and pressing the issue accordingly."

"We are encouraging countries to normalise their relations with Israel," the spokesman said. "We are working at the United Nations to eliminate unhelpful language that exists in U.N. resolutions as it relates to the Middle East and to Israel specifically," he said. "A number of U.N. resolutions, many of which the U.S. has opposed, say 'unfortunate things about the state of Israel,' and 'have contributed to antagonisms in the region that have thwarted peace.'" Mr. McCurry said.

Accused enter not-guilty pleas at Muta conspiracy trial in court

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — Eight defendants entered pleas of not guilty Thursday to charges of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein, replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state and change the Constitution by force and belonging to an illegal political party.

They entered the pleas after the State Security Court overruled defence objections that the court was not authorised to try the case and after rejecting requests that all the accused be freed unconditionally.

The defence had tried to establish that the charges against the defendants were "null and void," citing "illegal" arrests and interrogation conditions at the General Intelligence Department (GID), and that the State Security Court was not the authorised body to try such cases.

The defence claimed that the defendants were "physically and psychologically" tortured during their detention at the GID before they were transferred to Zarqa military prison last month.

Presiding Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin overruled the objections after hearing a seven-page presentation from prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi.

Maj. Hijazi, argued against every procedural objection made by the defence. He tried to establish that the GID officers who had interrogated the defendants were legally appointed as prosecutors by the chief of staff of the Armed Forces to investigate the case when the alleged plot was discovered in April.

Five suspects from Muta University, a military academy south of Amman, were allegedly recruited by the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP), Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami, to kill the King at a graduation ceremony on June 26. Two defendants and alleged members of the party — a merchant and a mosque imam — are being tried in this case, and two other alleged party members are

being tried in absentia. Another suspect was a member of the Royal Escort Unit. Two senior members of the party remain in detention, but are not being tried, and their fate remains unknown.

The wives and sisters of the defendants shouted, "mercy and justice" as the panel of three judges walked into the third session of the trial 45 minutes later than scheduled.

Col. Amin told the crowded courtroom that "this court's duty is to achieve justice," and asked the armed military police to "throw out anyone who makes a noise."

But the red berets did not ask anyone to leave the court room despite some of the women's constant chattering during the trial.

The women, all covering their heads with scarves and traditional bedouin headresses, had on Wednesday attacked the presiding judge's car as he drove into the court compound before the session began. They also cursed Maj. Hijazi as they walked past his office for "persecuting our boys." The prosecutor kept his door shut after Thursday's session ended.

Maj. Hijazi told the court Thursday that the defence's arguments against the constitutional independence of the state security court "carries doubt about the neutrality and independent decisions of this court, which calls for disciplinary and criminal questions."

Saleh Armouti, who heads a group of lawyers representing seven defendants, had argued on Wednesday that the court was formed by the prime minister and therefore fell under the jurisdiction of the executive branch. He referred to the constitution which separates the three branches of government.

Maj. Hijazi's statements drew an angry protest from Mr. Armouti, who warned the prosecution against "using threats as he has done in previous cases where he demanded my suspension."

"It would never occur to me that he (prosecutor) would doubt my judgement about the honesty and justice of this court," Mr. Armouti told the judges after Mr. Hijazi finished his presentation.

"On the contrary, I want to make it clear that the court in this case has provided the defence with all its rights."

Mr. Armouti asked the court to warn the prosecution against "using the method of threats."

Prosecution and defence sources told the Jordan Times that Maj. Hijazi and Mr. Armouti had come to near-physical clashes during the case of the "Prophet Mohammad's Army" two years ago. Maj. Hijazi asked for Mr. Armouti's suspension at the time, but the problem was solved outside court.

Col. Amin, who heads a three-man military panel, told the defence and prosecution Thursday that he did not "see any wrongdoing to the court or its judges."

"I have asked you in the first session, and ask you again, to stick to objectivity and legal matters," Col. Amin told the two sides. "I call on both parties to deal positively with each other and to avoid any tension for any reason."

Another angry defence objection was raised when Maj. Hijazi said he would present legal evidence in the trial that was not mentioned in the charge sheet: A file of a 1968 court verdict that found 16 members of the ILP, including its founder, Taqiuddin Al Nabahani, guilty of plotting to topple the regime and change the Constitution.

Maj. Hijazi made his announcement after defence lawyer Omar Dumra, representing one defendant, requested that the prosecution make available all the evidence in details to the defence before he presents it to the court. The prosecution's charge sheet only stated "legal evidence," without elaborating on what the evidence was. "This is unacceptable," defence lawyer Jawad Younis said

angrily. "This evidence is a surprise, which we were not told about and which is absent from the charge sheet. I insist that this evidence is not entered in the trial."

But Maj. Hijazi later told the Jordan Times that he did not have any surprise evidence in store and that his evidence and witness testimonies will take no more than two days.

More confusion was seen in the courtroom when Col. Amin asked the defence to provide individual requests for a doctor and a psychiatrist to check the defendants for alleged torture they underwent during detention at the GID. "I have received only one request from Mr. Dumra for his client," Col. Amin said.

Defence lawyers insisted they had delivered to the court clerk requests for some of the defendants at the beginning of the week, and the judge said he had not received them.

Earlier, the court rejected Mr. Dumra's request to free his client according to the general amnesty law of November 1992, which was passed after former deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, along with two other merchants, were found guilty in the "Shabbab Al Nafeer Al Islami" case.

"My client cut off all ties with Muta University after his graduation, which was before Nov. 11, 1992, and I request that all charges against him be dropped and he be released from custody," Mr. Dumra said.

The court rejected the request, saying that the amnesty did not include crimes related to conspiracy, a charge the defendant is facing.

If found guilty of charges of conspiring to assassinate King Hussein and changing the Constitution by force, the defendants could face the maximum death penalty. But Jordan has never witnessed an execution of political prisoners charged with such crimes, although some were executed for spying for Israel and murder.

Fighting flares in Mostar as Muslim-Croat truce is ratified; mediators active

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Heavy fighting continued in Bosnia-Herzegovina Friday, particularly around the southern city of Mostar, even as government and Croat military commanders ratified a ceasefire to take effect Saturday.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Major Idesbald van Biesebroek said a military accord, confirming the political truce agreement concluded earlier in the week in Geneva, was signed by Rasim Delic, for the government forces, and General Milivoj Petkovic, for the Croat forces.

Radio Sarajevo reported that the Muslim-held eastern sector of Mostar was "literally burning" as a result of heavy Croat shelling, a day before the truce was due to come into force.

Dozens were feared killed, with many buried beneath the rubble of buildings, the radio said. The Muslim-held town of Blagaj, just south of Mostar, was also under artillery attack, the radio said.

Maj. Van Biesebroek confirmed there had been "very heavy shelling" of Mostar and Jablanica Friday morning, but said the fighting had mostly died down in the afternoon.

The ceasefire signing followed several hours of talks between Delic, Petkovic and the commander of UNPROFOR in Bosnia, Gen. Francis Briquemont, at Sarajevo airport.

The earlier ceasefire deal was concluded by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and his Croa-

tian counterpart Franjo Tudjman. Friday was the first time a representative of the Bosnian Croat forces fighting in the field acknowledged the earlier accord.

Maj. Van Biesebroek said the deal also allowed for freedom of movement for all humanitarian convoys as of Saturday midday, followed at a later stage by the release of all prisoners and the dismantling of prison camps.

International mediators headed for a meeting Friday with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the leader most blamed for Bosnia's war, to brief him on new plans to halt the bloodshed.

The mediators, European Community special envoy Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg of the United Nations, have summoned Bosnia's Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders to Sarajevo on Tuesday to consider signing the peace package.

"We believe big steps towards peace will be taken in the next few days," Lord Owen said late Thursday.

The two were to brief Mr. Milosevic Friday on progress towards ending the war, which has left up to 200,000 people dead or missing and two million homeless.

Mr. Milosevic's influence is considered pivotal in any peace plan. He is widely blamed for inciting the Serb rebellion that mushroomed into civil war when Bosnia seceded from Yugoslavia nearly 18 months ago.

The United Nations responded with tough trade sanctions on Yugoslavia, wrecking its economy.

Norway detains hijackers

OSLO (AP) — Three men charged with hijacking a Russian airliner said they picked Norway as their destination because they hoped the Scandinavian country would shield them from torture in Iran, their attorney said Friday.

The men have asked for political asylum, but face up to 21 years in prison if they are tried and convicted of hijacking.

In a closed session, a preliminary court ordered the men held for eight weeks, pending investigation of the hijacking charges.

The men were charged with using grenades to hijack an Aeroflot Tu-134 with 58 people aboard after it took off on Wednesday from Baku, Azerbaijan. The jet was forced to fly to Kiev, Ukraine for refuelling and then to Norway.

Defence attorney Morten Huser said the three men, identified in Friday's court proceedings as Khalil Moghadani-Bahlul, 35, Mansour Mohammadi, 28, and Farhad Rahimi, 20, admitted to the hijacking.

Bjorn Arne Tronier, of the Romenke police district, said police have not been able to confirm their identities or that they are from Iran.

"They said they wanted to come to Norway because they thought it was a democratic land. They thought it would protect them," Mr. Huser told the Associated Press. He said two of the three had physical scars of torture, and he said they feared death if they returned to Iran.



U.S. TV networks nervous prior to Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — Be-leaguered U.S. television network executives, trying to fend off a major assault by cable companies, will be watching Sunday's Emmy Awards with more than usual nail-biting anxiety. This year could spell the end of the three major networks' dominance of the prestigious awards as their cable rivals, particularly Time's Home Box Office (HBO), seek to win the television industry's prestigious annual awards. Networks have a far greater potential viewership, since they are broadcast free of charge. HBO is a cable channel, available only to subscribers for a fee. HBO tied with the ABC network when the nominations for the awards, presented by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, were announced in July, with each getting 55. It was the first time a cable company had equaled one of the big networks in awards nominations. Both HBO and the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), which took 38 nominations, beat the fledgling Fox Network, which garnered just 10 nominations. PBS is funded publicly with corporate and private subsidies. It competes with the networks on a free broadcast frequency and is also available through cable.

Kasparov donates \$5,000 to Armenian victims

MOSCOW (AFP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov has donated \$5,000 to Armenian victims of the five-year war in Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan, prominent Armenian author Zori Balayan said Wednesday. Mr. Balayan, who is a member of the Nagorno-Karabakh Assembly, said the money was the latest of several donations by Kasparov for Armenian orphans and invalids. Kasparov's mother comes from the region.

Bath robot delivers no-hands showering

TOKYO (AP) — After four years and millions of yen worth of government funding, the Japanese will soon be able to buy the ultimate in shower technology — a bath robot. "It's a great feeling," said Takashi Miyoshi of Machinery Manufacturer Fuji Shoko, which oversaw bath robot's invention. "But you have to do your own shampooing." Miyoshi said the new product, called "Basu-Robo" in Japanese, took five companies, using government funds, four years to perfect. Priced at 4.8 million yen (\$46,000), it's scheduled to go on sale late October. Bathers need only sit inside the 1.6-metre (5.3-foot)-tall cubicle to savour the entire computer-controlled treatment. A three-minute sauna for starters, followed by a spray of hot water, a jet of liquid soap, more hot water to rinse the soap off, then a cool, drying breeze. Although there are no artificial hands to scrub the back, bath robot's injections are all aimed downward to prevent any soapy water from getting into the eyes. A constant cool breeze runs through the robot's hair. Miyoshi said the robot was originally targeted at workers coming home too exhausted or drunk to bathe themselves, but he said its developers now hope bath robot will be appreciated by the handicapped, sick and elderly.

Japan debates school ruling on shaven heads

TOKYO (R) — About 30 per cent of Japanese junior high schools require boys to have close-shaven heads, a nationwide survey published Friday shows. The survey, conducted earlier this month by the newspaper Mainichi Shimbun, dovetailed with a campaign by schoolboys to abolish the monk-like haircuts. Schoolboys wrote last month to the new Education Minister Ryoko Akamatsu demanding the close-cropped style be made optional. Their action triggered fierce debate in this conformist society, where school dress codes and other discipline are the norm. The newspaper survey showed 2,470 public junior high schools, about 30 per cent of the total, mandated bristle heads for boys as a way of maintaining school discipline. "We worry that if the rule is liberalised, the school will revert to chaos," a school official in southwestern Japan's Kagoshima Prefecture was quoted as saying. "We think (the haircut) should be evaluated by each individual school," an Education Ministry official was quoted as saying by the newspaper.